



**ELIZABETH KECKLY: FASHIONING A PUBLIC IMAGE**

**STUDENT HANDOUT 2**

**Women and Sewing: Then and Now**

Conduct an oral history with the oldest woman you know. Ask questions about how her experience with sewing has changed since she was young.

Example Questions

1. Do you have a sewing machine? Do you still use it? What do you make/did you make?
2. When did you learn to sew? Did you also learn mending, sewing on buttons and fasteners?
3. When you sew now is it a necessity for you or a hobby? When you grew up did everyone sew? Did every family have a sewing machine?
4. Please share about what kinds of material your clothes were made from when you were young. Has there been a big change in material since then?
5. Why do you think women do not sew much any more? Do you think it is important for everyone to know how to sew? Why?

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