

# DRESS PROFESH

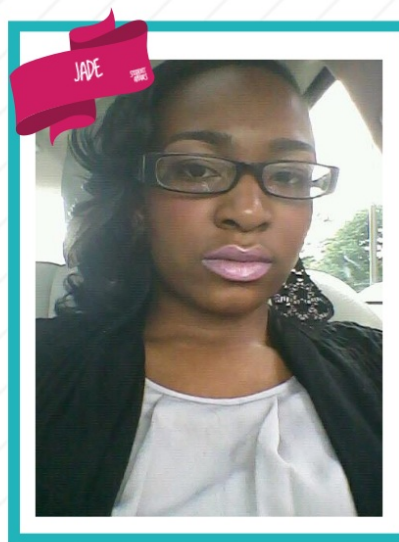
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## USER SUBMISSIONS: ACADEMIC EDITION

### EILEEN GREEN

"Little attention has been paid to the ways in which women academics...use clothing strategies to 'place' themselves within academic cultures with marginalize and exclude them"

**CHALLENGING  
NOTIONS OF WHAT  
IT MEANS TO LOOK  
"PROFESSIONAL".  
BODY POSITIVE.  
NO HATE ALLOWED.**



ELENA



I was recently diagnosed with fibromyalgia; this is on top of my previously diagnosed depression and anxiety. I now take medications for all three. Unfortunately, a major side effect of all of these medications is gastrointestinal problems. I won't go into details, but what you can see in this image is my bloated abdomen. No, I am not pregnant. And I am not actually this fat (though I am certainly plus sized). Normally my boobs stick out farther than my belly. My abdomen hurts, so I have been avoiding waistbands. Even elastic waistbands can cause discomfort when I am quite bloated. So, I rarely wear pants. I rarely wear structured dresses because I don't know if they will fit me throughout the day.

KATIE



One of the goals of this project is to challenge what it means to look "professional". Self care is often overlooked as something that is integral to doing any job successfully, and today I wanted to highlight what this looks like for me.

Today I dressed profesh by staying in sweats (pants from Old Navy, shirt from H&M). My partner and I have been out of state at a funeral for the last three days, and I really needed a low key day. I wore this, sat on my couch, and applied to jobs.

VISTALITAS



Professional dress is a complicated concept - the suit carries connotations of empire, domination, and control. I try to subvert that convention to make it more playful - I don't always succeed, but I do try to make it fun. I know the suit can make a formidable first impression, but by the time my students get to know me and my classroom a little better, that intimidation factor usually goes right out the window. In this way, I hope that the suit creates a space for subversion and conversation rather than rote authoritarian declamation.