

## Expressing an Opinion

Read the following text and answer the questions below.

*The following text are three responses to an opinion essay “Just Make It, Toots,” by Elizabeth Endicott, published in the New York Times on August 20, 2023*

### Response 1:

Shanna Goldstone  
New York

Despite the fact that two-thirds of American women are size 14 or above, brands and retailers continue to overlook and disregard plus-size women whose dollars are as green as those held by “straight size” women.

The root cause is simple, and it’s not that it’s more expensive or time-consuming; these excuses have been bandied about for years. There are not enough clothes available to plus-size women because brands and retailers assume that larger women will just accept whatever they’re given, since they have in the past.

As Ms. Endicott pointed out in her essay, this is no longer the case — women are finding other ways to express themselves through clothing that fits their bodies, their styles and their budgets, from making clothes themselves to shopping at independent designers and boutiques.

We still have a long way to go, but for every major retailer that dips a toe into the market and just as quickly pulls back, there are new designers and stores willing to step in and take their place.

Plus-size women deserve more and deserve better. Those who won’t cater to them do so at their own peril.

### Response 2:

Eloise Twining  
Ukiah, Calif.

Plus-size people aren’t the only folks whose clothing doesn’t fit. I wore a size 10 for decades, but most clothes wouldn’t fit my wide well-muscled shoulders. Apparently being really fit is just as bad as being a plus size.

I wasn’t alone; most of my co-workers had similar problems. Don’t even get me started about having a short back and a deep pelvis. I found only one brand of pants that came close to fitting and have worn them for almost 40 years. They definitely are not a fashion statement.

### Response 3:

Ashlie Grilz  
Providence, R.I.

Thank you, Elizabeth Endicott, for revealing the ways that historically marginalized consumers grapple with retail trends. You recognized that “plus size is now the American average.”

As someone who works for a company that sells clothing outside of the traditional gender binary, I’d add that gender neutral clothing will also soon be an American retail norm. It’s now up to large-scale retailers to decide if they want to meet this wave of demand, or miss out on contemporary consumers.

1. What do all three women agree on?
  - a. It’s difficult to find suitable clothes for plus size women.
  - b. It’s difficult to find suitable clothes for both plus size and extremely fit women.
  - c. It’s difficult to find suitable clothing for plus size women, fit women and non-binary individuals.
2. According to the first response, why is it difficult for plus size women to find clothes that fit them?
  - a. Because they have been historically marginalized.
  - b. Because they can’t afford them.
  - c. Because brands and retailers assume that they will accept whatever they’re given.
3. According to the third response, why is it difficult for plus size women to find clothes that fit them?
  - a. Because they have been historically marginalized.
  - b. Because they can’t afford them.
  - c. Because brands and retailers assume that they will accept whatever they’re given.
4. According to the second and third responses, what other two groups find it difficult to find suitable clothing?
  - a. Older women.
  - b. Plus size men.
  - c. Extremely fit women and non-binary people.
5. According to the first and third responses, what will happen to brands that ignore plus size women?
  - a. Nothing
  - b. They will miss out on sales.
  - c. They will have no customers.