

## Rachel Fisher, Summer 2018 Internship with University of Notre Dame

I am doing a senior thesis project combining anthropology and art, and this summer I used my grant money to gather some supplies and learn new techniques. For context, my project will be examining how a large company, American Girl, aims to provide young girls with historical narratives that focus on materialism, character values that “transcend time”, and a certain degree of privilege. The project will culminate in a series of dioramas that show hypothetical American Girl dolls in a narrative that doesn’t have the material aspects, privilege, or values of girlhood that your typical Americans Girl stories have, and a written analysis of the differences and their impact.

The grant money was used primarily in the purchase of a sewing machine, sewing supplies, and sewing lessons, since I will be creating American Girl sized clothes for the diorama. Before this summer, I had little to no experience with machine sewing, and 2 months later, I’m able to design and create a 1:3 scale garment that my instructor said was high quality enough to sell. Some of the money was also used for drawing supplies, woodworking supplies, and possible doll models.

Thank you so much for this opportunity and I’m looking forward to putting my new skills to good use!

