**Hackensack High School**

**AP English Literature and Composition**

**Attitude Worksheet**

*Read the following excerpt from a column by humorist Dave Barry, entitled “Revenge of the Pork Person.” Then explain Barry’s* ***attitude*** *towards society’s view of beauty and discuss how he communicates that* ***attitude****. Give examples of diction and imagery to support your assertion.*

I have never met a woman, no matter how attractive, who wasn't convinced, deep down

inside, that she was a real woofer. Men tend to be just the opposite. A man can have a belly you

could house commercial aircraft in and a grand total of eight greasy strands of hair, which he

grows real long and combs across the top of his head so that he looks, when viewed from above,

5 like an egg in the grasp of a giant spider, plus this man can have B.O. to the point where he

interferes with radio transmissions, and he will still be convinced that, in terms of attractiveness,

he is borderline Don Johnson[[1]](#footnote-1).

But not women. Women who look perfectly fine to other people are always seeing horrific

physical flaws in themselves. I have this friend, Janice, who looks very nice and is a highly

10 competent professional with a good job and a fine family, yet every now and then she will get

very depressed, and do you want to know why? Because she thinks she has *puffy ankles*. This

worries her much more often than, for example, the arms race. Her image of herself is that when

she walks down the street, people whisper: "There she goes! The woman with the *puffy ankles!"...*

What women think they should look like, of course, is the models in fashion advertisements.

15 This is pretty comical, because when we talk about fashion models, we are talking about mutated

women, the results of cruel genetic experiments performed by fashion designers so lacking in any

sense of human decency that they think nothing of putting their initials on your eyeglass lenses.

These experiments have resulted in a breed of fashion models who are 8 and sometimes 10 feet

tall, yet who weigh no more than an abridged dictionary due to the fact that they have virtually

20 none of the bodily features we normally associate with females such as hips and (let's come right

out and say it) bosoms. The leading cause of death among fashion models is falling through street

grates. If a normal human woman puts on clothing designed for these unfortunate people, she is

quite naturally going to look like Revenge of the Pork Person.

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1. Don Johnson was the lead actor in the television show *Miami Vice* and a very attractive man popular with American women in the 1980s. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)