

Spirit Day and/or Halloween Costume Considerations:

1. Are you using makeup to alter your natural skin tone?

Such uses of makeup cannot be separated from their historical context.

2. Does the name of your costume include an ethnicity in the title?

These are caricatures of a group of people, not costumes.

3. Are you wearing clothing that is clearly from a culture not your own?

Wearing regalia that belongs to another culture is appropriation. Wearing a culture is not a fashion statement. There is a fine line between appreciation and appropriation.

4. Are you dressed as an offensive historical figure?

Dressing as offensive historical figures can be construed as glorification, even if your costume is meant to be satirical.

5. Is your costume “funny” because it mocks the real-life experiences of others?

Belittling the struggles of marginalized groups is never okay.

6. Does your costume reinforce binary notions of gender?

Gender is part of people’s diverse identities and not a costume.

7. Does your costume mock diverse abilities?

Diverse abilities are not costumes.

8. Is your costume offensive?

Answer “yes” to any of the aforementioned questions and it likely is. If your costume raises any of these red flags, you should reconsider wearing it.