Patternmaking for Jacket and Coat Design by Pamela Vanderlinde fills a void in the textbook market. It is a book that is both informative and yet not overly complex for undergraduates to read and follow. The author breaks down seven classic jacket and coat designs for the reader. These designs include a blazer, tuxedo, military jacket, motorcycle jacket, Mao jacket, balmacaan coat, and frock coat. Before delving into each specific design section, the author offers some basic block manipulations for readers. Each block manipulation step is accompanied by excellent computer illustrations, which are easy to follow.

After the jacket/coat block preparation, the author explores the seven design styles. Each style is investigated from a historic perspective. I particularly like these sections as they look at why the style came about and when it was historically important. Some of the details are quite interesting, for instance, the fact that Mao jackets traditionally have five buttons along the center front to represent the five branches of government. Each overview is only a few pages and is also accompanied by contemporary high-fashion runway images. These runway pictures show how designers, such as Yohji Yamamoto and Marc Jacobs, have incorporated and altered the seven classics in their collections.

Following the style overviews, the author breaks down the flat patterning of each jacket/coat style. The instructions are easy to follow and include highly descriptive pictures of the patternmaking steps. They also explain the placement of new seamlines, details, pockets, vents, and much more. There are thorough instructions for drafting collars and lapels, which are superior to many other currently available books, and they also work through the development of the facings and lining.

Overall, I find the background, runway overview, illustrations, and step-by-step patternmaking guides to be superior. This book would be very useful for students who are interested in adding jackets or coats to their collections. It provides better instruction for creating these types of garments than most basic flat pattern textbooks. That being said, there are no instructions for sewing in this book. Be prepared to offer a sewing supplement for students who wish to embark on making their own jackets and coats.