



# Portrait Tip List

*We want to provide a general set of guidelines for you to referance for your senior portrait session. Remember, these are only guidelines, we want to capture the real you, so don't leave an outfit you love at home!*

## **ARRIVE EARLY**

If you are scheduled from 3:00 - 5:00 and show up late or not ready, you will have less time in front of the camera. If you need to get ready here (hair, makeup, etc.) please arrive early enough to be ready by your start time. There will also be a few minutes of paper work to complete before your session begins.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

Please notify us three business days before your session to cancel or reschedule.

## **CLOTHING**

These are your senior photos, so your clothing should reflect you! In general, solid colors and textures photograph best, so try minimizing stripes and plaids. Keep in mind that black photographs nicely. Variety is the best choice in selecting your wardrobe; and remember, variety refers not only to colors, but to styles of dress as well. Diversify your colors and color palettes by choosing brights, pastels and earthtones. Vary your style by bringing dressy, medium, and casual outfits. In some instances, text on clothing can be distracting, so just keep this in mind when choosing shirts.

Come organized: The less time you spend in the dressing room the more time you will have in front of the camera. It's advisable to group outfits together on hangers, making the changing process that much faster. Ironed clothing looks best and minimizes time away from the camera. Plan complete outfits, as your photos will be a mixture of close ups, mid length and full length.

## **HAIR**

The best tip for hair is to have it cut a few weeks before your session so that it will look natural when you arrive. Minor, easy hairstyle changes during your session are fine, but keep it simple so you don't lose camera time. We understand that some days you wear your hair curly and some days straight. If you do change between styles, it's best to let us know when you book your session so we can split your session into two separate time frames so you will have adequate time to restyle.

## **JEWELRY**

Best tip here, keep it simple. We want the attention on you. Some jewelry can be distracting. If you have different jewelry for different outfits, you might put each set of jewelry in a plastic baggy and hang it on the hanger with that outfit.

## **PROPS**

Bring props that define who you are. Your options are limitless! We accept everything from sports equipment and uniforms, to musical instruments, hobbies, vehicles and pets. Some props may take more time than others, such as a puppy. Also, if you are planning on bringing your vehicle, we suggest a session earlier or later in the day.

## **GLASSES**

Most glasses glare, and some distort your eyes. Some prescriptions more than others. Your best bet is to check with your optometrist, because most will "loan" you an empty set of frames similar to yours for your photo session.

## **SUNBURN AND TAN LINES**

Be aware of overtanning! Sunburn and peeling skin do not photograph well, and in most cases are hard to cover. If you have an unexpected bright sunburn, you may choose to reschedule your appointment. If you are having a winter or spring session and your tan has faded, you might consider tanning. But don't overdue it so you look too "fake-and-bake". Tan lines are hard to cover as well. We can usually photoshop them, but it may cost extra. To evenly tan, we suggest you vary your swimsuit top or use a tanning bed.

## **COMPLEXION**

We retouch blemishes, so don't worry about minor breakouts. We even now offer an inexpensive option to retouch your entire folio or album!

## **PETS**

We love photographing you with your pet. It is important to have someone with you who can supervise your pet, and carriers are a good idea if you prefer to leave them inside. Treats can be helpful to hold a dogs attention. We have a border collie, Delilah, at our studio who is very good with people and other pets.

## **FRIENDS AND PARENTS**

Friends and parents are encouraged to come with you. It is great to have a second pair of eyes to watch hair, clothing, etc. You can have a couple of shots with Mom, boyfriend, girlfriend, best friend or sibling at no extra charge.

## **WEATHER FOR OUTDOOR PORTRAITS**

If it's raining come anyway, or at least call to discuss a plan of action. We can always reschedule the outdoor session, and cloudy days are the best!

## **SCARS AND BRACES**

Scars are not automatically retouched, but can be removed or softened at your request. If you have braces, we can remove them for an additional fee. Don't fight smiling, a braces smile is better than no smile.

## *Girls:*

### **CLOTHING STYLES**

Be careful of baggy clothes that might make you look larger than you are. Make sure your clothing flatters you. If you think you have large arms, be careful of sleeveless styles, they can make your arms look fuller.

### **UNDERGARMENTS**

Please bring appropriate foundation wear for each outfit. Flesh colored is the best all around. Keep in mind what you will be wearing: if you are wearing a black shirt, black is best; if you have a tank, halter or strapless top, strapless is a must. Also, a word to the wise, today's fabrics are thin, so you might want to select undergarments that won't leave harsh lines.

### **FINGER AND TOE NAILS**

Nails show! If they have chipped paint, it will show. Many casual shots are done barefoot, so don't forget about those toes! Natural or basic colors work best.

### **MAKEUP**

Makeup should only be slightly heavier than normal, like you might wear in the evening. Mascara should be clean, try to avoid clumps. For those who don't normally wear makeup, a little can really make your photos pop. Powder will cut down the shine on your skin, eye liner and mascara will help your eyes really sparkle, and a slightly darker lip gloss will help keep your lips from looking washed out and dry. If you use bronzer, minimize it as it may distort your skin tone.

## *Guys:*

### **CLOTHING**

Remember, it's best to cooperate with mom! Wear the suit and tie, and she may let you wear the holey jeans. Don't forget about shoes. Try to match shoes with the outfit, and maybe throw your tennis shoes in the washer before your session to take some of the dirt off. You may want to pair a darker undershirt with darker shirts. Keep in mind that variety is good. Wear dressy, medium and casual outfits, but try to avoid all polo shirts, or all button downs. Mix it up!

### **SHAVING**

Please make sure you are clean shaven, if this is how you normally look. Retouching stubble may cost extra. If you have facial hair, try to clean up the lines of your chin strap or goatee. If you and mom disagree about facial hair, we can do half the shoot with hair and half without to satisfy everyone.