

# PORTRAIT TIP LIST

We want to provide a general set of guidelines for you to refer to. 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 about 5 minutes of paper work before your session begins.

## CANCELLATIONS

Please notify us 3 business days before a cancelation or reschedule

## CLOTHING

First of all avoid strips and plaid!! Solids photograph much better! Also bring a variety of color, don't bring 5 blue outfits even if it is your favorite color. Avoid clothing that has wording on it except for your own school logo, the wording is distracting in a final portrait. Vary the style, all one look (like tanks) gets boring. Vary the dress level, bring some dressy, some medium and some casual. Remember, it is best to do one or two outfits that mom will like, then we can do the stuff YOU like.

Come organized: The faster you are in the dressing room the more time you will have in front of the camera. Group your outfits together on hangers. Make sure they are ironed.

Some shots are close up, others are full length. Plan outfits completely. It is hard to do a full length formal in your suit if all you brought are tennis shoes.

## HAIR

Avoid changing your hairstyle, fresh perms, or cutting your hair right before your session. We suggest a trim two to three weeks before your session. Let it be natural. Quick easy hairstyle changes during your session are OK, but make it quick or you lose camera time. Bring your hair care tools and products with you if need be. It is OK to show up early in curlers if you need to.

## JEWELRY

Best tip here, keep it simple. We want the attention on you. Big, shiny jewelry can distract from the real subject, YOU. 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 THEM!! Bring props that help define who you are. Some popular choices are: Sports equipment (soccer ball, football, hockey stick, hurdle, whatever), sports uniforms, music instruments (from school tuba to rock guitar), activities (dance leotard and shoes, swimming, hobbies, you name it!), vehicles (we suggest a Superior outdoor Session for car shots).

## GLASSES

Most glasses glare! Some prescriptions more than others. Your best bet is to check with your optometrist. Most will “loan” you an empty set of frames similar to yours for your photo session.

## SUNBURN/ TANNING

AVOID SUNBURN! Sunburn and peeling skin DO NOT photograph well!! Tan, yes, burn, no. 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.

## 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 photograph you with your pet (in the Deluxe Studio or Superior outdoor Sessions only). It is important to have someone with you who can supervise your pet. 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. She is very good with people and other pets.

## FRIENDS & PARENTS

Friends or 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 is raining come anyway. We can always reschedule outdoors and cloudy day are the best.

## SCARS and BRACES

Scars are not automatically retouched, but can be removed or softened at your request. Braces? Don't worry. You could have the tops taken off for your photo session. But don't fight smiling, a braces smile is better than a dorky holding back a smile look.

# **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.

## CLOTHES FOR BLACK & WHITE

The black and white “glamour” look that is so popular is best with black clothing. The contrast between the skin and black is what makes them so dramatic. So bring some black. Or we have a few things here you can wear for fun. Dark bottoms are also in order.

## UNDERGARMENTS

Please bring appropriate foundation wear for each outfit. Flesh colored is the best you can hope for. Also, if you need a strapless, bring one. Tucking the straps down usually shows and looks bad. With today's thin fabrics, you might want to carefully select these pieces so they do not give unsightly lines.

## FINGER & TOE NAILS

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

## TAN & STRAP MARKS

Tan lines are not attractive in portraits. We suggest you vary your swimsuit top or use a tanning bed to minimize any tan marks. Remember to not overdo your tanning.

## MAKEUP

Please do not use any body/ face glitter. It does not photograph well. The glitter reflects light and it will look like blemishes.

Makeup should only be slightly heavier than normal, like you might wear in the evening. Mascara should be clean and contain no clumps. So if your mascara is old and clumpy, replace it first. For girls who usually don't wear make-up you may want to for your session. Powder will cut down on the shine of your skin, eye liner and mascara will help your eyes really sparkle, and even a slightly darker lip gloss will help keep your lips from looking washed out and dry.

## **GUYS:**

### CLOTHING

Remember, if mom gets her nice shot, she is much cooler on letting you get what you want! Bring the right shoes for the outfits. Docs or sandals photograph much better than big, bright tennis shoes.

Bring a dark T-shirt to wear under dark shirts. A white T-shirt triangle under a dark shirt sticks out like a sore thumb, so bring a black or gray.

Avoid large, bold brand names or words on clothing. Already, a few big names from just a few years ago, you would not be caught dead wearing now. No need to make your portraits advertising billboards for a clothing brand.

### SHAVING

Please make sure you are clean shaven. Retouching stubble costs extra and still does not look as good as a clean shave. Got a goatee that mom hates, but you love? Do your casual shots first with it on, then bring a razor and go to the rest room and shave it off for mom's formals. Everyone is happy that way!