

## How to Prepare for Senior or Professional Photos



### WARDROBE

The right clothing allows your face to dominate the shot, all other elements in your photo should be secondary. So my goal is for the face to be prominent, not the clothes. For this reason I discourage busy patterns and bright colors in your clothing, they will draw the eye to the clothing instead of the subject

- Never wear a lighter colored pant with a darker colored shirt, it will make your bottom half look larger than your top. White shirts are discouraged as well, because white tends to draw the viewers eye, and detracts your eye from the face of the subject. Bright white tennis shoes will stand out as well.
- Short skirts or dresses really limit your posing options. It's a good idea to vary your clothing styles, not all of one type.
- Big stripes are least flattering, try and avoid them.
- Big logos across your chest are not only distracting, they're going to date your portraits. Strive for a classic, timeless look, something that will be in style now as well as 20 years from now.
- Choose varying styles of clothing. Shirts with different necklines, casual and dressy clothing. Sweaters and other garments with textures are a good choice • Jackets can be added for a completely different look • Include scarves and hats to add more different clothing looks.
- Wrinkles WILL show up in your portraits. Iron your clothes if necessary and bring in on a hanger.
- Make sure your clothing is clean. Your senior portraits are only going to be as good as the combined effort of your photographer and you. You cannot expect the photographer to work a miracle and make your clothes perfect if you haven't done your part.
- Be mindful of how undergarments look with your chosen clothes.
- Long sleeves or sleeveless shirts are best. If you are concern about the size of your upper arms, then, of course, you'll want to wear long sleeves. Mostly short sleeves visually cut the arm in two, short sleeves should be avoided except in the most casual of photographs, however, three-quarter sleeves are fine.

## Glasses

- Be mindful that wearing reading or other clear glasses may result in glares. Feel free to take your glasses off for the photos.
- Another way to reduce glare on glasses is to physically adjust the position of the glasses themselves. By tilting the back end of the ear piece up just slightly, the plane of the glasses is shifted and can be a great way to keep the light source from reflecting in the lenses.

## Makeup

- Oily skin, especially on your face really is the enemy, oil will show up as unattractive shiny spots on your face in a photo, ( especially on your forehead)
- Wear a foundation makeup that doesn't have oil in it and if you do have oily skin, refresh your makeup with translucent powder during the shoot
- Face blotters work well keeping makeup intact
- Makeup or "base" or foundation that contains spf protection has a reflective quality, i.e. it looks shiny in photos
- Use a fresh tube of mascara so you don't have clumps
- Glitter and highly frosted eyeshadow will show up as tiny white spots all around your eyes
- If you use lotion of any kind, especially on your face it will show up as shine
- Moisturize your lips BEFORE your session. Super glossy lipstick or lip gloss make huge white spots from the shine on your lips wherever the light hits it.

## Jewelry

It's nice to include special or important jewelry in your portraits however keep in mind that too much jewelry can be distracting. Keep in mind that pendant type necklaces will be tough to keep in the proper place when you move around as you pose. Organize jewelry by putting in baggies and slipping over the coordinating outfit hangers so you won't be hunting around for it.

## Hair

Try to avoid a lot of hairspray, gel or other product in your hair. Your hair should move with you when you tilt your head and blow nicely in the breeze. Hair spray can be used to tame flyaways on top of your head or keep hair out of face. Try not

to forget to take your ponytail holder off of your wrist. If you are trying a new hair style give your hair a week or so to grow in a bit from a haircut before the session.

## Sun Tanning

Sunburns are nearly impossible to fix or retouch • Suntan lines are also tricky so you should vary your shirt sleeves and bathing suit tops when tanning to avoid lines • Be aware that spray tans will photograph orange and it will probably be blotchy, darker in the knees, elbows, hairline and other dry areas • It's best not to over tan even if you do your tanning the sun.

## What to bring

Bring more outfits than you need.

- Try to be prepared to change outfits quickly. That way we can spend more time shooting photos. If we will be in a location you need to change without a restroom remind your photographer to bring her portable changing tent.
- Have accessories ready in baggies like previously discussed.
- Bring multiple shoes to match outfits.
- Have a friend or family member come along to help fix hair and outfits.
- Bring props. Whatever your hobbies may be, music, sports we can incorporate it into any photo. Feel free to e-mail, text, or sent photography ideas to me to help me understand your style.

## Professionals

- Look professional, wear fitted clothes, which simple prints. Darker solids are recommended. Neutral colors draw the eye to your face, not what you are wearing.
- Include props if they match your brand.