

# SENIOR PORTRAIT TIPS & CHECKLIST

Think about this a moment: more people will see this portrait than ANY OTHER PHOTOGRAPH you ever have taken! Yes! Even more than will see your wedding photographs!

- What do you want your senior pictures to say about you? Something fun, witty, sexy, stylish, classic??
- Remember, in 20 years, you're going to look at these pictures with your own kids, what do you want THEM to say about you?

## HAIR, MAKE-UP & TANNING

- Girls, you'll want to wear your make-up a tad heavier than normal. Bring along extra powder, a brush and mascara. Wearing more mascara than normal will really bring out your eyes and allow them to 'POP'.
- Guys, be sure to shave the morning before your session.
- Don't try new hairstyles right before your shoot.
- Be sure you cover up tan lines - they WILL show. Avoid tanning or sun burning right before your session.
- Girls, don't be afraid to pull your hair back during your session, It'll give you an entirely different look. Ironing. You'll want to make sure everything's nice and pressed before your session. Wrinkles will show and we can't do much about that.
- Don't forget to bring along jewelry, rings, necklaces, changes of shoes, hair accessories, etc.!!!
- Girls, wear a LITTLE more than your normal makeup. Make sure your mascara is clean with no clumps.
- Guys, please make sure you are clean shaven. Stubble retouching takes time and never looks as good as a close shave.
- I retouch blemishes at no extra charge, so don't fret about a minor breakout!

## CLOTHING

- Bring lots of looks! There is no limit to the number of wardrobe changes so the more outfits you bring with you, the more pictures you're going to see and more choices you'll have. Don't just bring a couple of shirts and a pair of jeans. Shake it up a bit.
- Avoid stripes & plaids! Solids photograph much better! Bring a variety of color and avoid clothing with words (except for school logo). Choose something classic (parents will love), bring something fun and trendy (all about you), be adventurous (bring a prom dress). Vary the style, you don't want all your pictures looking the same. As a rule, light colors do best on light backgrounds, dark colors on dark backgrounds. Bring the style you prefer, or bring both just in case.
- Be careful with baggy clothes, they may make you look larger than you are. Make sure your clothes flatter you. A little sexy is ok, but make sure you have some that Mom and relatives will like, too.
- Girls - keep in mind that if you bring in light or white pants, your underwear WILL be seen through, so keep the flowered or stripes at home! Also, a natural colored bra is best - we don't need to be editing brightly contrasting straps.
- Bring a variety of color; don't bring all blue outfits even if it is your favorite color. Change up the style, all one look (like tanks) gets boring. Plan all your outfits completely because I will take photos that are close-up, full length, and in between. Also remember, it is best to do one or two outfits that mom will like, then we can do the stuff you like.
- Wear solid colors, no large distracting patterns
- Guys: A dress suit with a tie has been the standard for years and I still recommend it. If you want to wear only a dress shirt and tie, wear a colored shirt. White shirts look best under a jacket.
- **Outdoor Portraits**
- Bring an outfit that blends with the outdoors.

- If you are the outdoors sports kind of person, let's create something special with your gear.
- Wear blue jeans or khaki pants unless you want a dressier look (girls, wear longer, flowing dresses).
- You may want to avoid very short skirts as they will restrict your movement and poses.
- Certain colors look best for different seasons outdoors.
  - Spring and summer - sky blue, khaki, pale green, pink, watermelon, dark peach.
  - Fall - Red, gold, deep orange, emerald green, and dark green

## **NAILS**

Nails DO show, so make sure they look nice. If they are chipping off or some funky color, they will show. Many of your casual shots are done barefoot, so same applies to toes. Light or natural color works best.

## **JEWELRY**

• Keep it simple to keep the attention on YOU. We don't want attention drawn to bright and shiny jewelry.

## **GLASSES**

• Let's face it - glasses glare. If possible, remove the lenses before you get here. Some optometrists will loan you an empty pair of frames similar to your. Check with them.

## **PROPS IDEAS**

• Bring props that tell us who you are. Popular choices are:

- Favorite Book
- Favorite CD's or posters
- iPod / MP3 Player
- Cell Phone
- Musical Instrument
- Shopping bags from favorite stores
- Camera
- Laptop
- Sports equipment:
  - Letterman Jacket, FFA Jacket
  - Cleats / shoes / boots
  - Uniform / Jersey
  - Pom Poms
  - Balls: basketball, soccer, football, volleyball, tennis ball, etc.
  - Gloves: boxing, goal keeper, baseball, football, rodeo
  - Helmet / Hat
  - Equipment: bat, racket, hockey stick, wakeboard, skate board, snowboard, skis, lasso, rifle, golf clubs, swimming goggles, hurdle, etc.
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- Car, Motorcycle, Truck, ATV, boat, waverunner
- Keys, Keyring
- Cap & Gown
- Vacation or Senior Trip Memorabilia: airline tickets, souvenirs, photos
- Movie Tickets / Concert Tickets
- Senior Ring
- Artwork: paintings, drawings, sculptures
- Costumes

- Trophies / Medals you've won
- Ball cap, cowboy hat, other hats
- Tennis Shoes, High Heels, Boots
- Anything with school name and/or mascot on it: tee shirt, sweat shirt, hoodie, pennant, poster, calendar
- Yearbook
- Prom Dress
- Sunglasses
- Favorite drink can or bottle or fast food cup
- Hobbies
- Anything that.....
  - you enjoy
  - makes you happy
  - is important to you
  - you are interested in
  - love
  - you aspire to be
  - you use in your daily life

## **PETS**

• Pets are good, just make sure you bring someone with you that can control them while we are busy taking the rest of your pictures. You may want to bring a pet carrier. Treats are good to keep a dog's attention.

## **FRIENDS OR PARENTS**

• A friend or parent is good as long as they are not a distraction. You can have a few shots taken with a boyfriend or girlfriend, best friend or sibling at no extra cost if you would like.