

# TIPS for a Terrific Senior Portrait Session

So you have a closet full of clothes, but nothing to wear. Here are a few ideas that will help you choose the BEST clothes to wear for your Senior Portraits.

- ✚ **WARDROBE:** Choose a VARIETY of outfits. It's a good idea to include both casual and more formal outfits in your senior portraits. Coordinate from head to toe (hair, hat & jewelry to shoes & socks, if applicable).
- ✚ Your face should be the focal point of your portraits. Long sleeve solids or very subtle prints are usually the most flattering in portraits. Exposed upper arms or thighs may appear larger than normal on portraits.
- ✚ Medium to dark clothes look the best on dark backgrounds.
- ✚ Medium to light colors look the best on lighter colored backgrounds.
- ✚ Earth tones are best for outdoor portraits.
- ✚ Darker clothes minimize body size.
- ✚ Traditional styles will stand the test of time and keep your portrait looking fresh for years to come.
- ✚ Some poses will show your shoes so don't forget to bring shoes and socks for each outfit that you plan to wear.
- ✚ Busy patterns and loud colors can be very distracting in your portraits. Avoid large and bold patterns that might tend to draw attention away from your face.

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**PROPS & ACCESSORIES** can help to show your personality and record the types of activities you are involved in. Be sure to bring some of your own props to your portrait session. Here are some ideas:

- |                      |                     |   |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| ✚ Musical Instrument | Leather Jacket      | Uniform                                   |
| ✚ Hats and/or Belts  | Sports Equipment    | Stuffed Animals                           |
| ✚ Sunglasses         | Jewelry, Class Ring | <b>THESE REALLY MAKE THE OUTFIT WORK!</b> |

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## TIPS FOR WOMEN

Make sure all your outfits are complete, meaning you should dress from head to toe!

**UNDERGARMENTS:** It may seem obvious, but in the preparation process they are sometimes overlooked. Undergarments must be the right shape and shade for each outfit! Sheer clothing can show panty lines, especially when the light hits them just right! (You know what we mean!)

**MAKEUP:** (Read this even if you don't wear it) Most senior women do a nice job applying makeup for every day wear. Your face should look as if it is prom night! Even if you don't wear much/any make-up, we strongly recommend that you bring and apply: a mat foundation, translucent powder to reduce shine; a light lip color, a little eye shadow and a healthy coat of mascara.

**SKIN:** Shine is a problem that shows in pictures, the reason for TRANSLUCENT POWDER which reduces the oils on your skin. Also remember, too much sun darkens skin unnaturally, dries hair, shows bags under the eyes, and makes skin appear shiny. Tan lines and sunburn cannot be fixed. They will show in the finished portraits.

**HANDS:** Make sure your hands and nails look good. Old, chipped nail polish should be removed if you are unable to get a manicure. Apply a clear coat

of polish and use hand lotion just before you are photographed. Even if they're not your "best" feature, you cannot escape the fact that they are noticeably attached to the end of your arms and will show in portraits from time to time. Remember, if you paint your nails, do your toes too. You may do some barefoot poses and you'll want your hands and feet to match.

**HAIR:** If you plan to have a haircut, schedule it about three weeks prior to your session. This will give you time for it to lose that "just cut" look, and if it's not a cut you like, you'll have enough time to reschedule without losing your reservation fee. If you color your hair, don't forget that roots do show. You may want to retouch those as well.

**GLASSES:** Glasses can cause glare, distortions and magnifications that cannot be fixed. You may ask your optician to remove your lenses for the session, or to lend you a pair of the same frames without the lenses in them just for the session.

**ATTITUDE:** R E L A X !! You're going to love this! It's a one-time deal! So leave your worries at home & be prepared to enjoy the experience. Don't hesitate to call with any questions you have. We need you to be a positive part of the creation process! We can't do it without you !!!

## TIPS FOR MEN

For your session to have real variety, put some time into your **WARDROBE**.

We want your looks to be real, casual and masculine, so don't be afraid to look good!

Make sure all the outfits you wear for all sessions are complete. You should dress from head to toe! All wardrobe should be clean and pressed, wrinkle free, without rips or stains which may show in a photograph, and which can't be removed later.

Long sleeves and long pants are usually the best.

Don't be afraid to get a little creative! It's nice to have some different looks. Try something more formal, business-like or really GQ. How about something with a little attitude?

Bring your best and most favorite outfits, but make sure all outfits aren't too similar. You don't want all dark outfits, or all light. You'll have more variety if your wardrobe is a mixture: some with light tones, some dark, some winter clothing, some summer clothing, some formal, some casual....etc.

### HAIR:

If you plan to have a haircut, try to schedule it at least a week prior to your session. It is especially important in the summer when a fresh cut may reveal untanned skin!

### SKIN:

Sunburn is probably the biggest problem for photographs. Unlike blemishes and scars which can be removed, Sunburn **CANNOT** be fixed! Not only does it make you look red and "crispy", but often accentuates bags under the eyes, dries out your hair and it can also cause you to be excessively shiny. **DON'T GET BURNED!!!** Too much of a tan can cause shine, red noses, weird tan lines and it can even look kind of unnatural in a photograph.

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**SHAVING:** Remember to do so, please.

### EXPRESSIONS:

Bring your smile, but remember, **WE DO LOTS OF SERIOUS EXPRESSIONS, TOO.** We like to have some serious looks, some smiles and some in between. Variety is the coolest way to go. It shows more dimension to the person. No one has just one side. But whatever the case, we won't force you to do anything that you don't want to do.

### ATTITUDE:

Relax! These days, guys are paying a lot more attention to their image. Guys are finding that when they put a little effort into preparing for their session and come with a good attitude, they have a lot of fun, and in the end have some really cool looking photographs from which to choose. The more thought you put into this, the better we can meet your needs.

It's a one-time deal, so leave your worries at home. Be prepared to enjoy this experience and don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions.

**R E M E M B E R** everyone..  
**BRING ALONG YOUR**  
**FAVORITE MUSIC CD and FAVORITE SONG !**

**FINALLY . . . . .** Get a good night's rest, relax and be ready for a great portrait session!

