

**Tips on Getting Ready For Senior Portrait or Other Portraits**

1. Patterns on **clothing**, as well as logos or words tend to be distracting. The brighter the pattern, the more distracting they will be. Solids generally photograph better than bright patterns.
2. The guidelines for outdoor portraits differ slightly from studio guidelines. **Clothing** in orange, teal, and any kind of green tend to clash with many outdoor locations. We suggest mid-tone solids or darker color solids like black, any kind of blue, browns, reds, purple, or grey. Yellow can also work (but tightly fitting yellow outfits can accent weight).
3. Young women may wear dresses or skirts outside, but **pants** allow a greater range of poses and are recommended.
4. Keep in mind that lighter colors (especially white), tight fitting tops, and horizontal lines tend to accent weight (very loose fitting white will usually look fine). If you don't want your arms to be obvious, wear a long sleeve shirt instead of a short sleeve or tank top. **Darker colors** (especially black), loose-fitting clothing, and vertical lines have a more **slimming effect**.
5. Fashions can be great, but it's a good idea to wear at least **one outfit that will likely not be labeled as obviously trendy**. The thing about fashion is that it gets out of fashion. You might be happy with your photos for a year, then be terribly embarrassed you actually wore such an outfit five years down the road.
6. Feel free to bring **outfits related to any activities** or sports you are involved with. Most people will bring a few casual outfits, a uniform of some sort, and a dressier outfit—but again, everyone is different—you should bring what you want to wear and what reflects you as a person.
7. You are encouraged to **bring your own props**. These could include sports items like a football or pennant, musical instruments, collections, stuffed animals, your favorite flower or rose petals, books, blankets from your childhood, hats, artwork, school mascots or other activity-related items, or any other personal object that relates to you.
8. Don't worry if you have a sudden outbreak of **acne!** This is the absolute **easiest thing to fix afterwards** for us, and acne removal is included with every portrait package and wallet order. What is harder to fix is hair styles. If you've had a very bad hair cut right before the portrait session, please feel free to call us—we can reschedule. After all, we want you to be happy with your photos and if you know you dislike your hair you are unlikely to be happy with your photos. If you are particular about your hair, please advise the parent or friend with you at the portrait session to keep an eye out for you.
9. It is strongly recommended to bring a family member or a friend (or both). They will have the benefit of helping put you at ease, they can check your hair, help you with props and/or pets, give you clothing advice, and in general give you moral support. Plus they get to enjoy the portrait session with you.
10. If working with a makeup artist, it is advised to make the arrangements with them at least a week before your portrait session.
11. We try to schedule location sessions to take advantage of the best times of day (and year). Outdoor light looks best earlier in the day and later. Sunrise and sunset are considered 'magic' times for many photographers and artists. When shooting in public parks we must also observe the 'open' hours of that park. The best times of the year for location sessions are from late March to mid-June and from mid-September to early December. Trees have lost most of their foliage by the middle of December and don't grow back until the middle of March.
12. If poor weather on the day of your scheduled session prevents a location session, a rescheduling will be arranged at no extra charge.