



## GENERAL TIPS FOR GREAT SENIOR PORTRAITS

I want you to have the very best senior portraits possible, which is why you probably chose me in the first place! It is very important for your pictures that you bring the proper clothing, props and that you prepare for your portraits. Here is some great advice, make up tips, and clothing suggestions to help you have the best session possible.

If your clothing detracts from you, if you forget to think about which props might really make your portraits snap, then your portraits will not be the best that they can be.

There is a map to my studio at the end of this document.

### CLOTHING

*Please do not wear stripes or plaids.* Solids photograph much better! Also bring a variety of color, don't bring 5 blue outfits and vary the style, don't select all one look (like tanks) but vary your outfits, bring something dressy, something fun and playful, and something casual. Avoid clothing that has wording on it except for your own school logo. Remember, it is best to do one or two outfits that Mom and Dad will like, then we can do the stuff YOU like.

Our sessions let you do unlimited looks within your time period. I want you get as much variety as possible. Most people can get 4-5 looks per hour. I suggest you bring twice as much as what you think we will do shoot so that we have more to pick from.

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

Also remember, as a general rule, light clothes look better on lighter backgrounds and darker clothes look better on darker backgrounds. So if you prefer dark, bring dark, if you prefer some of both, bring some of both.

Remember, If you are doing an outdoor session, many locations do not have changing areas. But if you wear a layered outfit, you can add or drop a piece for a different look.

### CLOTHING STYLES

Try to 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. Wild to mild. We don't tell you what you can and can not wear. A little sexy is OK, but don't make ALL of your outfits that way. We

photograph everything from prom dresses to swimsuits. What one person likes may not be appropriate for the next person.

## **CLOTHES FOR BLACK & WHITE**

If you're going for the black and white "glamour" look, it is best with black clothing. The contrast between the skin and black is what makes them so dramatic. So bring some black, wild to mild. Dark bottoms are also in order.

## **HAIR**

Avoid changing your hairstyle or cutting your hair right before your session. Let it be natural. Quick easy hairstyle changes during your session are just fine. Bring your hair care tools and products with you if you want.

Although I try to help with hair, it is often hard to know what your hair "is supposed to look like". So make sure you like the look or let me know your preferences. Hair style is ultimately YOUR responsibility.

## **JEWELRY**

Keep your jewelry simple to keep the attention on you. Big, shiny jewelry can distract from the real subject, which is YOU. If you have different jewelry for different outfits, you might put each set of jewelry in a plastic baggie and hang it on the hangar 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 guitar), activities (dance leotard and shoes, swimming, hobbies, you name it!), vehicles (motorcycles and cars can come to the studio, I suggest more than an hour session for shots of you with your car).

## **GLASSES**

I will do my very best to make sure to eliminate glare from your glasses by positioning my lights to minimize it. You might check with your optometrist to see if they will "loan" you an empty set of frames similar to yours for your photo session.

## **SUNBURN/TANNING**

Tan lines are not attractive in portraits. We suggest you vary your swimsuit top to minimize any tan marks. Remember to not overdo your tanning, skin that looks like dark leather is not particularly attractive.

AVOID SUNBURN! Sunburn and peeling skin DO NOT photograph well!! Tan, yes, burn, no. If you are a winter or spring session, there are some tricks that I can do to help your color in your final prints.

## **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**

Pets are OK as long as they are house broken. It is a good idea to have someone bring a pet, then leave with them after. Or bring a pet carrier to contain them while you are being photographed without them. Treats can be helpful to hold a dog's attention.

## **FRIENDS & PARENTS**

Friends or parents are welcome. They can be a help. HOWEVER, if they distract you, it is best to have them wait in the gallery. You can have a couple of shots with a boyfriend, girlfriend, best friend or sibling at no extra charge.

## **WEATHER FOR OUTDOOR PORTRAITS**

Let's face it, we are at the mercy of mother nature. If it rains, no fretting will do anything about it, we simply have to reschedule. Don't worry about clouds, they actually HELP! But rain falling IS a problem. If it is a morning session, we will take your phone number home with us and call you if we need to cancel due to weather, otherwise, we are on! If it is a daytime and the weather is questionable, simply call the studio.

## **TATTOOS, SCARS and BRACES**

Just let me know if you want tattoos to show or not. It is that easy. Scars are not automatically retouched, but can be removed or softened at your request. Extensive work may have a slight extra charge. Braces? Don't worry. You could have the tops taken off for your photo session, or we can retouch them out by computer. But don't fight smiling, a braces smile is better than a dorky holding back a smile look.

## **SPECIAL TIPS JUST FOR GIRLS**

There are certain things girls should be aware of and watch for in their preparation:

### **MAKEUP**

Makeup should only be slightly heavier than normal. About 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. Avoid makeup with "sparkles" in it. When you move, it makes a nice shimmer, but in a photo, where you are still, it just creates a little white spot in the photograph. Also avoid makeup with an SPF in it. Although it is good for your skin in the sun, the SPF tends to create a shine. Summer shine can be controlled by using translucent powder that knocks out shine without adding additional color.

### **UNDERGARMENTS**

Be careful about wearing flowered underwear. You won't realize it is a problem until you go to put on your WHITE PANTS! Or come in wearing a white bra and put on a black sleeveless shirt. 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 often 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 real bright colors. Natural or basic work best. We don't want to draw attention to your neon orange toe nails. And they may look really bad with your next outfit!

## TIPS FOR THE GUYS

### CLOTHING

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.

### 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 restroom and shave it off for mom's formals.

Everyone is happy that way!

### OUTDOOR SESSIONS AT PARKS AND LAKES

Please follow these suggestions so clothing does not become a problem.

Adventure appointments meet at the studio and carpool out together. Please try to be prompt. We are working within a fairly short time period just prior to sunset.

Other color options include off-white, khaki, soft earth tones and faded denim. Avoid bright colors. Some possible clothing suggestions include soft white dresses. Denim or khaki shorts with a white top, tank or bikini top.

Sometimes there are limited places to change. Adding or removing one layer gives the illusion of two outfits without the changing problems. If you really want to change, we suggest a white bikini in place of underwear so that you can change in the open.

You may get wet, so we suggest bringing a towel to dry off and sit on when you drive home.

### BARR LAKE STATE PARK

There is an additional \$6 fee to enter the park per vehicle.

Light, natural clothing colors work well. Consider white and off white. Faded Denim works well too. Avoid bright colors.

Swimsuits are OK, but we suggest you keep them modest. A formal dress even looks nice here! Another nice look is a pair of shorts with a bikini top.

Bring a towel to dry off with. You might get wet!

### THE RIVER

The Platte River photographs well. Sand bars, water, driftwood and concrete are some of the looks.

Light, natural clothing colors work best. Consider white and off white or faded denim. As well as natural tones and earth tones. Avoid bright colors.

Shoes: It is about 1/2 of a mile walk to the river from parking, part over rocks. So wear sensible shoes.

Parents are welcome to come. Please DO NOT bring small children.

Changing is difficult but possible; I suggest some of the methods mentioned above. Adding or removing one layer give the illusion of two outfits without the changing problems. Or make sure it is a change you can make in the open in front of everyone.

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### HERE IS A MAP TO THE STUDIO

My studio is located about 5 miles northeast of Brighton: If you have any trouble finding the location, please call me at 720-530-6290 (cell). We are the last house on the left when heading south down Tate Avenue. There is a white 3-rail fence out front of the house. Please stay to the left on the driveway and pull around back to the studio behind our home. Please walk right in, I'll be expecting you!

*You can cut and paste this link into your browser to print your own map.*

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=Jack+Dean+Photography,+Fort+Lupton,+CO>

