

# STYLE

A GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL SENIOR PORTRAITS

*guide*



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it's  
your time  
to  
**SHINE**



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# GENERAL INFO

## 1. DAY BEFORE

On the day before your session, prepare and press your clothes. Arrange them by outfits and group them together on hangers so that nothing gets left behind.



## 5. TRAVEL CLOTHES

Wear your regular street clothes to your session. Once you get to the studio, we'll discuss your wishes and options and decide which outfit to start with.

## 2. PRIVATE SHOWING

Have a show at home and try on all of your outfits. Make sure that you are happy with your choices and that they fit properly (ill-fitting clothing will not photograph well).



## 3. GET REST

Relax and get plenty of rest the night before your session. Without a good night's rest, your eyes may look tired or have dark circles under them.



## 4. EAT & DRINK

Have a light meal on the day of your session and be sure to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.



## 6. BE EARLY

Please arrive 10-15 minutes before your scheduled appointment. There is usually someone scheduled right after you, and tardiness will cut into your allotted session time! If you need to apply make-up or style your hair at the studio, plan another 15 minutes advance arrival to do so.

# SHOPPING

Your style is an extension of your personality and is an important part of making your portraits unique, so choosing your outfits for your senior session is an important step in the process.

First and foremost, don't wait until the last minute to go shopping. Finding the right combination of fit and style can take time. Plus if you are ordering online, you will need to be sure that you are allowing enough time for items to arrive so that you can try them on for fit and satisfaction. Be relaxed and have fun but don't feel like you have to break the bank. Just remember your clothing is just an accessory to the most important thing in the photograph and that is YOU!



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# ★ ★ \_clothing\_dos\_ ★ ★



Wear colors that go best with your complexion, hair coloring and eyes.



## BE SEASONAL

Bring different styles and colors of clothes, to ensure variety in your session. Your photos can represent EVERY season, so bring a wide range of clothing despite the current weather.



## THINK COLOR

### DARK SIDE

Darker clothing can be concealing and can make you look thinner.



PHOTOGRAPHED ON THE SAME DAY!



## COVER UP

Something about your body that you don't like, just cover it up. Many kids come to their session wearing a sleeveless shirt saying they hate their upper arms!

## CLOTHING DON'TS

### AVOID WASH OUT

White clothing can tend to wash out a fair complexion. Be careful about wearing white in the winter when your tan is more faded.



### DIAL IT DOWN!

Bold stripes and large patterns draw attention away from the most important part of your photographs: YOUR FACE!



### AVOID SUPERSIZING

Be careful with loose or baggy clothing; they can be unflattering and can tend to make you appear heavier.



## INSPIRATION

### FASHION HOMEWORK

For photo session homework, we recommend browsing fashion magazines, and window shopping at the mall! Pay attention to how items are put together to create a unique style or look. Above all, don't sweat it! Julie is going to pose you in such a way, that you are always flattered!



### BODY TYPE

When looking for style inspiration, look to people with a similar body type to you (athletic, slim, pear, hourglass, etc.) and see what works well on them and what doesn't. Hardly anyone has the shape of a model or a mannequin, so don't expect the clothes that work well on them to work well on you.

## ACCESSORIZE

### ABOVE THE SHOULDERS

Bring attention to your face with accessories such as hats, scarves, and bold necklaces. A scarf or a bold necklace can transform a simple outfit into a statement piece and offer a variety of looks for one clothing change.



### BELTS

Defining the waist with a belt or a tie creates an hourglass shape.



### SHOES

Heels lengthen the leg line and slim the body while making your legs look fabulous! But, don't spend a lot of time hunting for shoes for every outfit because most of your favorite shots will be from the waist up, and focused on your face.



## MAKE-UP TIPS

### LIPS

Shine on the lips is great. Even if you choose not to wear lipstick, make sure to have a gloss.



### LIPSTICK

If you use a liner, use the same or a similar color as your lipstick. Finish with a bit of shine or gloss in the center of your lips as a highlight.

### BROWS

Make sure your brows are well groomed. Tweeze stray hairs on your brow the night before your session so that it will not look red or swollen the day of your shoot.

### LASHES

Build a beautiful lash: waterproof mascara has more building power than regular mascara enabling you to build length and thickness. Be sure to curl your lashes before applying mascara.



## FOR GUYS

### FACE

If your skin tends to be shiny, bring paper blotters to remove oil from your skin. Be sure to bring a lip balm: dry lips do not look good in photos.

### HAIR

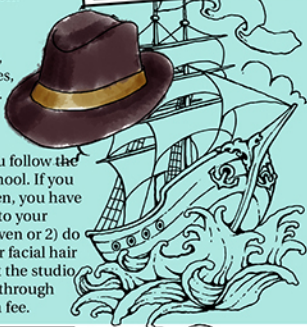
Cuts should be about a week before your session.

### ACCESSORIZE

Some ideas... hats, ties, sunglasses, headphones, jackets, suspenders, etc.

### FACIAL HAIR

It is important that you follow the dress code for your school. If you need to be clean shaven, you have two options. 1) come to your photo shoot clean shaven or 2) do some photos with your facial hair and then shave here at the studio. Removal of facial hair through editing will be an extra fee.



## SALON READY

### HAIR

If you color your hair, MAKE SURE you have roots touched up a few days to a week before your session. Dark roots are amplified in photos since we are lighting your face and not the top of your head.

### STYLE CHANGES

Quick, easy hairstyle changes during your session are okay, but practice doing changes so you don't lose camera time.

### NAILS

Your nails will show in your photos so make sure to have fresh polish on your hands and toes. Choose a neutral color that will go with all of your outfits. Press-on nails actually look great in photos so don't feel like you need to go the extra expense of having your nails professionally done.



### TANNING

Please do not over-do the tanning bed or sun. Your skin will have a natural luster and color if you let it rest from tanning for at least three days before your session. Tanning right before your session will swell the skin and cause you to look red in your photos.





# WHAT TO BRING

## DON'T FORGET... *ATHLETES*

If you are planning on sports images don't forget to bring multiple uniforms and your own equipment. Be sure to pack all head to toe elements of your uniforms ie: shoes, helmets, hats, socks, cleats, etc. For blended action images, you want to make sure you have thought of everything!



## PROPS

Props can help to show your personality and record the types of activities you are involved in. They serve as a pictorial definition of who YOU are. Some popular choices are: sporting equipment, musical instruments, posters, awards, favorite books, class ring, hunting equipment, skateboards, uniforms, and collectibles.



## GOT PETS?

Pets are always welcome during your session, but please call ahead because there may also be other pets at the studio. Arrange for someone to pick up large pets once they have been photographed.

## GIRLS...

Do not forget the proper undergarments and don't forget a strapless bra. Nude colored undergarments work best and will not show through lighter or thinner clothing.

Pack ALL of your make-up, jewelry, props, and any hair preparation products you think you'll need. It's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it for your session!



Formal dresses can be a great addition to your senior session.



## QUESTIONS?

### WHAT IF MY FACE BREAKS OUT?

All of your finished portraits will be retouched so don't worry if your complexion breaks out right before.

### CAN I CHANGE MY HAIR DURING THE SESSION?

Yes, but only if you can do it quickly. All sessions are based on time, and you don't want to waste camera time making drastic hairstyle changes.

### WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Wear clothes that reflect your personal style! We will choose your sets and backgrounds to best complement your attire.

### CAN I BE PHOTOGRAPHED WITH A FRIEND?

Sure, friends and relatives are ok, but remember these portraits are mostly about YOU. We offer a free family session to all our senior clients, so it might be best to save those photos for another day so we can focus the session on YOU.



## FOLLOW

  
[facebook.com/juliesuttonphotography.com](https://facebook.com/juliesuttonphotography.com)



Check out our website  
If you like particular backdrops, pay attention to what style of clothing the subject is wearing in those images.

[suttonphotography.com](https://suttonphotography.com)

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## MORE QUESTIONS?

ask  
Julie!

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