

# Clothing Tips

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## Colors & Patterns

- Avoid bold patterns – stripes, checks, prints, plaids, etc. These will draw attention to themselves and detract from the faces in the photo.
- Avoid bright or bold colors as these will also dominate the photo.
- Avoid light shades that are similar to flesh tones such as taupe, pink, tan, beige, cream or yellow.
- Light colored clothing is better for lighter backgrounds, but is distracting against darker backgrounds.
- Darker colors are flattering to the face and slimming to the figure.
- For outdoor portraits earth tones work well
- For formal portraits mid to deep tones are best.
- Solid colors or very simple patterns look best and do not detract from the face.

## Styles

- Avoid any clothing that does not fit properly.
- Avoid wearing extreme styles.
- Simple is best.
- Wear what you are comfortable in – this will help you relax, as well as being a truer representation of you.
- Teens and adults should wear long sleeves. Bare arms draw attention to themselves, thus detracting from the face.
- Women should also wear longer skirts or pants, or dark hose, for the same reason as above.

## Groups

- Couples and groups should coordinate their clothing to be similar in both style and color tone. Contrasting styles or colors create visual confusion, and bring some subjects forward while others fade.
- Coordinating clothing creates a sense of unity or togetherness within a group.
- Coordinating clothing also allows the faces to remain the focus of the photo.
- Groups can wear well-balanced complimentary colors

## Extra Tips

- If your feet will be in the portrait, make sure that shoes and socks are not going to be distracting elements in the portrait.
- Bring an extra change of clothes to the session, so you can show your different sides. (Discuss this with the photographer ahead of time.)
- Women should avoid heavy make-up.
- Schedule the session for the time of day when you feel you look your best.
- Bring a few essential items to have on hand during the session, if needed: comb, brush, hairspray, hair clips, make-up, mirror, safety pins, etc.
- Plan on arriving at least 15 minutes early to your session. This will allow time to make last minute adjustments to your hair and clothing, as well as give you time to relax before the session begins.

And now, here is the most important thing to remember when having portraits taken: RELAX AND HAVE FUN!!