

# WHAT TO WEAR

ERVIN PHOTOGRAPHY





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# What to Wear

## A Guide For High School Senior Portraits

You are part of the generation that photographs everything. You have the power to share and create memories at the tip of your fingers. You've mastered the selfie and now it's time to master your senior pictures. These are tips that we've found helpful – we want your senior session to be fun and comfortable. Our goal is to capture exactly how you want the world to see you.



# General Don'ts & Their Solutions

## WRINKLED CLOTHES

Using the nicest word possible, wearing wrinkled clothes is sloppy. Even if you slept through three alarms, are 5 minutes late and eating a bagel in your car on the way to your session– you can still make it look like you ironed your outfit.

## BUSY PATTERNS

The focus of the photo should be you – not your polka dot shirt, floral scarf, and printed skirt combination. In general, try avoiding patterns like plaid or stripes. If you love a certain pattern, focus on and pair it with solid colors.

See pages 9-13 to learn how to wear the right stripes for your body type if you just can't stay away from them

## SHORT SKIRTS

We want to be able to share these photos with your grandparents. Style is certainly a way of self-expression but if your skirt distracts from your beautiful face, then the focus is lost. The best rule of thumb is actually the one you hate following in school – if your skirt reaches the tip of your middle finger when you have your hands down at your side, you should be in the clear.

## REVEALING TOPS

Again, we would love it if you could share your senior photos with your grandparents and other family members. As much as we want you to love and embrace your body, we also want the focus to be on your beautiful face.

## UNDERGARMENTS THAT DON'T MATCH YOUR OUTFIT

Red bra straps and a white tank top look distracting and take away from what the viewer is actually supposed to be paying attention to – your gorgeous face. Make sure to carefully choose undergarments that match your outfits and create the best picture possible.



Some of our  
favorite places to shop:  
Rustic Cuff  
J. Cole Shoes  
Dainty Hooligan  
Mint  
On A Whim

# GENERAL DO'S

## NUDE UNDER GARMENTS

You can't go wrong with nude undergarments. Since nude is usually similar to your skin, it doesn't appear like a white bra under a white shirt would. Nothing ruins a perfectly planned outfit more than when you can see what you're wearing underneath.

## LAYERS

There is a fine line between cute and not being able to move your arms, because you're wearing so many layers. Layers can be a key part of your outfit because they're so versatile.

## JEWELRY

Keeping your accessories simple but noticeable is an attainable goal. If you feel beautiful and comfortable in a simple, clean-cut T-Shirt, add a little something to your photo with a statement necklace.

## PATTERNS TO MIX

This isn't easy but it certainly can be done. Make sure to coordinate colors, not patterns. Some say leopard print counts as a neutral – so it's easier to pair if that's your style.

Stripes with floral  
Stripes with leopard print





# HOW TO DETERMINE YOUR BODY TYPE

Fruits, geometric shapes, or inanimate objects – choose one to determine your body type. We know it's not easy to put your body type in a box. We understand and embrace that everyone is different, so what is eye-catching on one person, might not flatter you in the same way. We hope these tips help you determine how to best compliment your body, so you can feel confident in your pictures and in your life.

These are the most frequently used terms to describe body type.

**STRAIGHT.** With a straight body, your shoulders and hips are relatively the same width and your waist doesn't have noticeable definition.

**PEAR,** or triangle body shape. You notice that your hips are wider than your shoulders and your waist is noticeable.

**HOURGLASS.** If you have an hourglass figure, your waist is defined like a word in Webster's Dictionary. Your hips and shoulders are relatively the same size.

**TOP HOURGLASS.** Like the regular hourglass figure, but your bust is slightly bigger than the width of your hips, but your waist is still very defined.

**INVERTED TRIANGLE.** You have noticeably wider shoulders, in comparison to your waist and hips.

**OVAL.** In general, your waist is equal (sometimes a little more) in width to your hips and shoulders.





# STRAIGHT

Generally, this body type should look for pieces of clothing that help create the illusion of a more curvy figure. Snug clothes, like a bodycon dress, are an easy way to achieve this look.

Color blocking is also a simple trick to consider.

- **What to avoid:** Shapeless, flowy tops and dresses. With a straight body, it's very easy to lose your shape in loose or baggy clothes.

- **STRIPES:** If stripes are a pattern you want to incorporate, look for pieces with differing thickness – it can help define your body shape





## HOURGLASS

You want to draw attention to your waist, so look for shirts with v-necklines or that are more form fitted. You'll lose your shape in baby doll tops or a shirt with a high neckline. Pencil skirts are also an easy and classic way to play up your waistline.

- **What to avoid:** Loose fitting clothes take away from your waistline and curves. Don't look for skin tight clothes but look for pieces that play up your waistline – i.e. a skirt that cinches at the waist.

- **STRIPES:** As long as the stripes are the same direction, it will emphasize your natural curves.

# PEAR

With this body type, you want to be mindful of which part of your body you're emphasizing and which part you want to tone down. Since your hips seem wider than your bust and shoulders, you'll want to bring more attention to your upper half. A-line dresses, higher cut tops, and bottoms that don't bring attention to your hips will be your best assets.

- **What to avoid:** Anything that brings attention to your hips – flared skirts and baby doll shirts that flare at the waist.

- **STRIPES:** Horizontal stripes create an illusion of a broader upper body – which can help balance out the lower half of your body.





## INVERTED TRIANGLE

It can seem a bit like a balancing act at times but creating a look that flatters your body is surprisingly simple. Look for pieces that play down your shoulders while adding some definition to your hips. Try pairing an A-line skirt with a simple tank top with narrow straps.

- **What to avoid:** Bringing more attention to your broad shoulders – i.e. shirts or dresses with high necklines.

- **STRIPES:** Vertical stripes can be your best friend – they create a slimmer looking figure.

# OVAL

For this body type, everything seems to be in equal width across the board. Look for dresses with a deeper v-cut and add a belt to help create a more defined waist.

- **What to avoid:** Skin tight clothes that don't do your body justice. It is easier to create a defined body shape with more loose fitting clothes than to start with tight fitting pieces.

- **STRIPES:** Vertical stripes can be worn with this body type



# HOW TO DETERMINE YOUR SKIN TONE

There are some simple ways to figure out your skin tone . There are three categories of undertones that affect your overall skin tone: cool, warm, and neutral.

**Wrist Check.** When you look at the veins on your wrist do they appear more blue or green? If you're seeing a green tint, it's because the melanin in your skin has a more distinct yellow tone to it, creating a "warm" appearance. If your veins appear blue and everyone can see in your face when you're blushing, you most likely have cool undertones. With cool undertones, you're more susceptible to getting sunburned, which means you have less melanin, placing you in the category of fair skin.

**The Sunshine Test.** Are you the friend who can stand outside for 5 minutes and come back looking like you've spent a week on the beach? If that's true, chances are you have yellow to olive toned skin, also classified in the "warm" category. If you're the friend who gets sunburned in the same amount of time, you're probably in the "cool" category.

**Gold or Silver?** The jewelry test is another way to determine your skin's undertone. Silver pairs well with and highlights cool undertones, while gold compliments those with warmer undertones. Even if you haven't noticed it until now – you probably have more gold or silver jewelry because you naturally pick what looks best on you.





# DRESS FOR NEUTRAL SKIN TONES

Neutral skin tones tend to be more common – which is why finding make up that fits the distinct color of your skin isn't incredibly difficult. If you've done the skin test – you checked your veins, did the jewelry test, compared your skin to your friend's – your skin does not reveal obvious tones of olive or pink.

**WHAT'S YOUR SHADE?** Since your skin doesn't lean more toward warm or cool, you're lucky enough to be able to pull off most shades. Some suggest wearing colors like blush pink to subtly enhance your features. Pairing dark navy with whites, tans, or even colors like lilac can compliment your skin tone.





# DRESS FOR WARM SKIN TONES



The amount of natural melanin in your skin creates yellow-to-olive undertones. If you're still not completely sure which category you're in, think about the words that are repeated when you buy make up: warm beige, honey, and golden.

**WHAT'S YOUR SHADE?** Dark reds, berry tones, and even metallic colors like bronze not only highlight your skin tone but bring out the color in your eyes as well. Not feeling the dark shades? With a warm skin tone, pulling off bright colors, like corals or even fuchsia's is easy for you – they highlight your features perfectly.





## DRESS FOR COOL SKIN TONES

You're the friend who gets sunburned and you can never hide when you're feeling embarrassed. We hope you embrace your ivory, porcelain, or pale skin – you can pull off colors others just can't.

Some of the best colors to compliment your beautiful light skin are colors that have a soft shade with just enough pigment to make your eye color pop – a pastel blue is always a solid go-to, especially for people with blue eyes.



# STYLES, EXPLAINED

This is the chance for your clothes to match your personality – whether that is boho, glam, classic, or flamboyant – we welcome your inner style. Have an idea but not exactly sure what you'd call it? These are some of the most popular styles, explained.



**CASUAL.** Your go-to outfit does not take very much prep time and the majority of definitions confirm that jeans and a T-Shirt are what people mean when they use the word casual. It's important to use the power of statement jewelry with this style. If skinny jeans and a white fitted t-shirt is your go to outfit, add a statement necklace to give your photo just a little pop.

- Mila Kunis
- Jennifer Lawrence
- Places to shop: Gap, Forever21, Garage

**CLASSIC.** If you like more than jeans and a T-shirt but you aren't ready to button your shirts all the way, a classic style is likely your beat. Blazers paired with jeans or even pairing colors like white and black is the most "classic" way to achieve this style.

- Miranda Kerr
- Places to shop: Gap, Forever21, Old Navy, J. Crew, Little Black Dress



# STYLES, CONTINUED



## PREPPY

You worship Blair Waldorf's style and prefer clean-cut pieces to loose fitting and busy outfits. A preppy wardrobe can easily fall on the casual side – dark, fitted jeans paired with a button up and pull-over sweater or dressed up with a statement necklace. Minimal and classic make up pairs the best with this style.

- Blair Waldorf
- Emma Watson
- Places to shop: Gap, Francesca's Anthropologie, Runway 7, Little Black Dress

## FLAMBOYANT

If your personality is loud and colorful, let your outfit reflect it. Overwhelming the photos can be easy, so we suggest that you pick one or two bold pieces and pair them with something more muted. For example, if you have pants with a pattern, try pairing with a solid shirt and incorporate a statement necklace.

- Lady Gaga
- Nicki Minaj
- Places to shop: Urban Outfitters, Forever21



## BOHEMIAN

Layers, intricate designs, and flowing pieces are your staple. A style that started commanding attention in the 1960s and 70s, it is a look that is equally easy to achieve, as it is to overdo.

- Vanessa Hudgens
- Places to shop: Urban Outfitters, Forever21, Alatr'd State

# STYLES, CONTINUED



## GLAM

By definition, glam is over the top. We're talking gowns, jumpsuits, and heels. In some ways, you pull inspiration from flamboyant styles but you pick softer colors. It's almost expected to go a little over the top.

Places to shop: Dillard's, Dainty Hooligan, On A Whim, Mint, Little Black Dress

## ALTERNATIVE

We define it as alternative but this could mean punk, edgy, or artistic. You enjoy sticking out from the crowd and you relish being different. Achieving this look could involve using your statement look of black jeans.

Places to shop: Tilly's, Vans, American Eagle, Forever21







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