

# Portraits by Theresa

16227 Railroad Way Snohomish WA 98296 360 668 0400 425 422 3053 web = [portraitsbytheresa.com](http://portraitsbytheresa.com)

## **These tips are to help make sure your senior portraits are the best they can be.**

**ARRIVE EARLY** Please arrive about 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. This will allow you time to check in, bring in and arrange your clothes, fix your hair if needed. You will have a chance to look through examples, props and setting selections to give you ideas of what you might like for your portrait.

**CLOTHING** Solids photograph very well! Also bring a variety of color, don't bring 4 blue outfits even if it is your favorite color. Avoid clothing that has **excessive** wording on it. Vary the style; all one look (like tanks) won't give you an array of styles. Remember, it is best to do one or two outfits that mom will like, and then we can do the stuff YOU like.

Some shots are close up, others are full length. Plan outfits completely.

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.

Group your outfits together ON HANGARS. It is amazing how many people come in with clothes stuffed in a plastic bag and wrinkled clothes detract from your portrait! Make sure they are ironed, although we have an iron for touch ups.

For Girls, if you have a dress that pretty short, consider wearing a pair of "spanky's" under the dress, so that if we are shooting your portraits at a fun new angle, we don't need to worry about you being self conscious.

**HAIR** Avoid changing your hairstyle or cutting your hair right before your session. Let it be natural.

Although we pay special attention to your hair to keep "fly aways" down, it is hard to know what your hair "is supposed to look like". So make sure you like the look or let us know your preferences.

**JEWELRY** Best tip here, keep it simple, at least for a few shots. We want the attention on you. Big, shiny jewelry can distract from the real subject, YOU. If you have different jewelry for different outfits, you

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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), sports uniforms, music instruments (from school tuba to rock guitar), activities (dance leotard and shoes, swimming, hobbies, you name it!), vehicles (motorcycles, ATV's, cars, etc.)

**GLASSES** Most glasses glare! Some prescriptions more than others. Your best bet is to check with your optometrist. Most will "loan" you an empty set of frames similar to yours for your photo session. This will eliminate the "glass glare" that most glasses give. Please remember, if you choose to wear your glasses there could be a computer charge to remove the glare.

**SUNBURN/TANNING** AVOID SUNBURN! Sunburn and peeling skin DO NOT photograph well!! Tan, yes, burn, no. If you are a winter or spring session and your tan has faded, you might consider tanning. But don't overdue.

**COMPLEXION** We **Retouch** blemishes, (included in our print cost), so don't worry about minor breakouts. Retouching smoothes complexions only. Altering backgrounds or clothing is called Artwork and is an additional fee.

**PETS** Pets are OK as long as they are house broken. Bring a pet carrier, for smaller pets, to contain them while you are being photographed without them. Treats can be helpful to hold a dogs attention. Large dogs need to be on a leash. We will have water for them and shade for them to rest in while you are being photographed. For larger animals, like horses, we have plenty of room for maneuvering a trailer and a special place to prep them for pictures. Please bring equipment to clean up after them if need be.

**FRIENDS & PARENTS** Friends or parents are **VERY welcome**. They can be a help. You can have a couple of shots with a boyfriend, girlfriend, best friend, parent or sibling at no extra charge.

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**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 the outdoor portion and/or do indoor portraits. Sometimes we will split your session up and do the indoor and covered porch areas outside then reschedule your open area outdoor portraits. Don't worry about clouds, they actually HELP! But rain falling IS a problem. We will call you if we need to cancel due to weather, otherwise, we are on! If the weather is questionable, simply call the studio. You would be AMAZED at the portraits we create that are outdoors, yet covered so we don't get wet. We MAKE the sunshine happen with our knowledge of flash photography and experience!

**TATTOOS, SCARS and BRACES** Just let us 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 them removed for your photo session, or we can retouch them out by computer. Prices vary to take them out in a portrait depending upon each individual situation.

## **SPECIAL CONCERNS FOR GIRLS**

**CLOTHING STYLES** 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 really tell you what you can and can not wear but will help you choose the outfit that will go best with each setting. We photograph everything from prom dresses to swimsuits. What one person likes may not be appropriate for the next person.

**MAKE-UP** Make-up should only be slightly heavier than normal, like you might wear in the evening. Mascara should be clean and contain no clumps. Avoid makeup with lots and lots of "sparkles" in it. When you move, it makes a nice shimmer, but in a photo, where you are still, it creates a little white spot that almost looks like a blemish. Summer shine can be controlled by using translucent powder that knocks out shine without adding additional color.

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**UNDERGARMENTS** It is amazing how many times someone will come in wearing flowered underwear and not realize it is a problem until they go to put on their 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 usually 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!

**DEPOSITS AND SHOOTING FEES** Remember to read over our **Portrait Brochure** and bring along your payment for the **Shooting Fee** you have chosen as well as your **\$150 Print deposit** (this deposit goes towards your final portrait order). We accept Check, Cash and MasterCard/Visa.

## PARKING:

Please note the **highlighted PARKING instructions** on your appointment card emailed to you. Please park smack dab in front of our home, parallel to the double wide stairway. The studio entrance is to the left of the stairway, on the ground level (daylight basement entrance), so no one has to go up or down any stairs. (Helpful for our elderly clients). Please do not block the carport to our guest home next to the studio. This is an additional private residence and we do not want to block people in. There will be signs showing you where to park.

Please call or email us if you have any questions.

Smiles,

Theresa

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