

# WHAT TO WEAR

BY WALSH PHOTOGRAPHIC DESIGN





# WHAT TO WEAR

## A Guide For High School Senior Portraits

You are part of a generation that documents everything. You have the power to share and create memories at the tips of your fingers. You've mastered the art of the selfie but now it's time to master your senior photos. These are the tips that we've found helpful – we want your photo shoot to be fun, comfortable, and we want to capture exactly how you want the world to see you.





# WHAT WORKS BEST

## GREAT CLOTHING CHOICES

Choose a variety of outfits that show off your true personality. Choose at least one classic outfit plus jeans, shorts, dresses, skirts and more. Mix it up!

If your favorite sport or activity includes special clothing or uniforms, bring those along too. We can help you decide which to wear.

Pick functional clothing: If you want to get the most out of your poses, you need to be able to sit, stand and squat comfortably in most of your outfits.

Tailored clothing that accentuates your favorite features is always a safe bet.



## LAYERS

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

## JEWELRY

Classic and thin-chained jewelry paired with simple earrings look best. If you feel beautiful and comfortable in a simple, clean-cut T-shirt, add a little something to your photo with a statement necklace.

## NUDE UNDERGARMENTS

You really can't go wrong with nude colored undergarments. Because they are similar in tone to your skin, they almost disappear.



# WHAT DOESN'T WORK

*Avoid these clothing mistakes*

## WRINKLED CLOTHES

Wearing a wrinkled shirt, skirt, or pants looks sloppy and is impossible to fix in retouching. We suggest you bring your freshly ironed clothes on hangers.

## BUSY PATTERNS

The focus of your photographs should be you. Your clothes should be flattering on you and bring out your best features. In general, try to avoid strong patterns, plaids or stripes. If you love a certain pattern, focus on that and pair it with solid colors.

## SHORT SKIRTS & REVEALING TOPS

You want to be able to share your photographs with your family and friends. Avoid short length skirts, dresses or shorts and cleavage-baring tops and blouses that expose too much when sitting, squatting or bending over.

Avoid tight-fitting clothing that accentuates problem areas.

## REPETITIVE STYLES

Avoid wearing the same outfits in the same style over and over again. A wide variety of looks is the key to a great collection of photographs.

## JEWELRY

Try to avoid trendy and chunky jewelry that might draw attention away from your face.









# DETERMINE YOUR BODY TYPE

If you're nervous about what kind of clothes to wear in order to accent your best features, have no fear!

Over the next few pages you will learn which styles work for each body type. We hope these tips help you determine how to compliment your body best, so you can wear what inspires you as well.

These are the most common terms to describe body types.

**STRAIGHT.** Your upper body tends to be the same width as your lower body.

**HOURGLASS.** Your upper body is about the same width as your hips, but your waist is still very defined.

**PEAR.** Your upper body is more slender in comparison to your lower body.

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

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





# STRAIGHT

RECTANGLE OR RULER BODY TYPE

## TRAITS

Your upper body tends to be the same width as your lower body.

You may consider yourself “boxy”.

## YOUR WARDROBE GOAL

Enhance your figure by creating curves with hemlines and colors.

## DO'S & DON'TS

Don't be afraid to experiment with colors. If you want to accentuate your upper body, wear a brightly colored top with darker bottoms, and vice versa if you want to accentuate your lower half.

Shapely tops (scoop neck, v-neck, sweetheart, halter necklines) can create curves on your upper body.

Peplum tops or dresses will add curves by bringing attention to your hips.

Refined patterns in classically bold colors help bring depth and a richness to your frame.

High-waisted belts will give you the illusion of a smaller waist which will add curves.

Avoid shapeless, flowy tops and dresses. With a straight body, it's very easy to lose your shape.





# HOURGLASS

COKE BOTTLE BODY TYPE

## TRAITS

Your upper body and lower body are similar in width while your smaller waist breaks through your middle.

You may consider yourself “curvy” with a small waistline.

## YOUR WARDROBE GOAL

Accentuate your curves without looking suggestive.

## DO'S & DON'TS

Your waist is what you'll want to bring attention to, so look for shirts with v-necklines or that are more form fitted.

Pencil skirts are also a classic way accent your figure.

Wear fitted or tailored looks that aren't too tight or attention drawing.

Waistline belts can help accentuate your stomach and show off your figure.

Skinny and bootcut jeans look best on you.

Nude high heels can lengthen your legs.

Try not to wear your skirts or dresses too short.



# PEAR

PEAR OR TRIANGLE BODY TYPE

## TRAITS

Your upper body (shoulders, chest and stomach) is more slender than your lower body (hips, thighs and bottom).

## YOUR WARDROBE GOAL

To balance out your lower body by bringing more attention to your upper body with appropriate clothing choices.

## DO'S & DON'TS

Keep your tops lighter in color than your bottoms. It will bring attention to your upper frame.

Wear blazers and jackets that stop at the hipline.

Brightly colored cardigans or tops will always draw attention away from your hips and towards your face.

Pants should be boot or flare cut. This style helps balance out your hips.

A-line skirts will help balance out your hips as well.

Stay away from pencil skirts as they will accentuate your lower body.

Avoid anything that brings attention to your hips – flared skirts, baby doll style shirts that flare at the waist.



# INVERTED TRIANGLE

## WEDGE BODY TYPE



### TRAITS

Your upper body (shoulders, chest and stomach) measure wider than your lower body.

### YOUR WARDROBE GOAL

To minimize your upper body and accentuate your lower body to create visual balance.

### DO'S & DON'TS

Look for pieces that play down your shoulders while adding some definition to your hips, like pairing an A-line skirt with a simple tank top with narrow straps.

High waisted bottoms are great for this look because they bring attention to your shapely hips.

Keep your neckline soft. Go for cowl necks, deep v-necks or even scoop necks.

Go for simple and darker toned tops while experimenting with brightly colored or refined printed bottoms.

Wear wide legged pants to balance our a wider upper body.

Use a high-waisted belt to accent your waist.

Stay away from spaghetti straps as they can draw attention to a larger upper body.



# OVAL

CIRCLE OR APPLE BODY TYPE

## TRAITS

Your middle body holds most of your weight.

## YOUR WARDROBE GOAL

To lengthen your torso to create the illusion of a more defined waist.

## DO'S & DON'TS

A darker toned, longer length cardigan can help elongate your torso.

A structured blazer or jacket that will help draw angular lines giving your upper body structure.

3/4 sleeves on your tops will help slenderize your arms.

Bootcut bottoms will help extend your body.

Wear a great tummy shaper to minimize your waist and an uplifting bra to create separation between your waistline and bra line.





**WARDROBE BY SKIN TONE**





# NEUTRAL SKIN TONES

Neutral skin tones don't reveal obvious tones of olive or pink.

Your hybrid warm-cool coloring puts the whole rainbow in play. But in general it's better to choose slightly softened sherbet shades, like muted raspberry, creamsicle, lemon, and lavender. Ultra-brights, like magenta and electric blue, can overwhelm the balance in your complexion.

Consider wearing colors like blush pink to subtly enhance your features. Pairing dark navy with whites or tans. Even colors like lilac can compliment your skin tone.





# WARM SKIN TONES

Warm skin tones are usually deep and have yellow, olive or tan undertones.

People with warm skin tones (called “summers”) usually have brunette hair, red hair (with brown eyes) or black hair. Most warm toned people have dark or hazel eyes.

With a warm skin tone, pulling off bright colors like corals or even fuchsias is easy for you - they highlight your features perfectly.

Jewel tones still look good on warm tones, but go for deeper colors like eggplant instead of purple or deep teal instead of electric blue.

Complimentary Colors: khaki, gray, olive green, orange, coral.





# COOL SKIN TONES

Cool skin tones are usually pale and have blue, pink or magenta undertones.

People with cool skin tones (called “winters”) usually have light blonde or red hair and light eyes. Some have extreme contrasts, dark brown hair with blue eyes and pale skin. Embrace your beautiful skin. You can pull off colors other just can’t!

Some of the best colors for you are soft shades with just enough pigment to make your eye color pop. If you have blue eyes, wear blue...and the same goes for green eyes and a green outfit.

Complimentary Colors: blues, greens and purples.









# WARDROBE BY STYLE

Remember this when choosing your senior portrait wardrobe...**BE YOURSELF!**

This is your chance to dress exactly how you view yourself - whether that is Classic, Country, Boho, or in-your-face Flamboyant - we welcome your true personality. Feel free to mix your looks. You're not a one-dimensional girl! Show off your different sides. Here are some of the most popular styles, explained.

## CASUALLY CAREFREE

A casual classic will always be denim. Whether it's cut-off shorts, boot-cut jeans or denim skinnies you can always transform this look into whatever you want it to be. This style works in any season, so there's no reason to worry about the weather.

Keep your colors neutral and bold to play up your primary colors. If you want to add a few complimentary colors, throw on a super fun scarf.

To keep the look casual, keep your top loose fitting or slouchy.

Statement jewelry will give your photo a little extra pop.





# WARDROBE BY STYLE

## CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC

If you want a little more than jeans and a t-shirt but aren't ready for formal, classic style is likely your beat. Blazers paired with jeans or even pairing colors like black and white are the most popular ways to achieve this style.

This look is for those who love tailored structure with whimsy accents. Collars meet jewels while blazers are paired with pops of color. A preppy wardrobe can easily fall on the more casual side. - dark, fitted jeans paired with a button up and pull-over sweater. Dress it up a little more with statement jewelry.

If you're a happy, go lucky girl who likes to look polished and playful, this is the style for you.



# WARDROBE BY STYLE



## 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.

## 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.





# WARDROBE BY STYLE



## BOHO BEAUTIFUL

Whether you are a wanderlust at heart or a wild spirit, this boho look is for you!

Most boho looks are light and airy with sheer fabrics and lace while others are full of bold tribal patterns and hints of Middle Eastern flair.

The true secret to pulling off the bohemian style is in the accessories. Necklaces on necklaces, bangles on bangles, headbands and lots of rings. The boho look comes from the gypsies and they were always wearing tons of rustic jewelry.

## COUNTRY CHIC

Lovely ruffles and lace paired with sheer and flow fabrics are the staples of this classic senior style.

As the sun sets and the warm light fills the air, your hair will be lit with a halo and your sheer dress will leave behind an amazing silhouette. If you want to nix the flow and trade it in for a pair of bootsocks, keep the balance with a pretty top edged in ruffles or a light lacey pattern.







PHOTOGRAPHIC *Walsh* DESIGN

3255 American Saddler Dr  
Park City, UT 84060  
435-649-4523  
info@walshphotography.com  
www.walshphotography.com