

# Portrait Planning Guide

## A. Clothing:

- A. How Much Clothing: Well, honestly, more is better. Portraiture is all about the face and relationships with the people in the portraits. The more you cover the limbs the more complimentary the portrait.
- B. The longer the sleeves the better. They help slenderize the arms. Avoid short pants.

## B. Neckline:

- A. Clothing that comes up to the neck is flattering for most people.
- B. A wide and open collar has the tendency to make the neck look thicker.

## C. What color should I choose?

- A. Solid colors are best. They are less distracting from the main emphasis, the face.
- B. Dark colors
  - A. Tend to slenderize. Use these if you plan on using a dark background.
- C. Light Colors
  - A. Can add weight to some people
  - B. Use these if you are planning to use a light background.

## D. Color Tone:

- A. Tones should be matched with others in the group. A navy blue with a pastel blue should be avoided. It makes the lighter toned color the center of the picture.
- B. Avoid lighter color clothing and bold tones below the waist.

## E. Suggested Clothing Ideas:

- A. White shirt & blue jeans
- B. White shirt & Khakis
- C. Tan shirt & Brown pants
- D. Blue shirt & blue pants

## F. Patterns:

- A. It is very important that prints and patterns should be avoided. They scream for attention in the portrait and distract from the face.
- B. The same goes for ties.

## G. White Socks:

- A. Please, no white socks. Barefoot, sandals or black socks with long pants is best.

## H. Group Portraits:

- A. The goal of a group portrait is to blend the bodies together and accentuate the face as much as possible. The above clothing suggestions apply to a group setting also. In a group uniformity is best.
- B. The other consideration in a group portrait is the background being used.
  - A. If you choose to wear darker clothing then the background should be a darker background
  - B. If you choose to wear lighter clothing then the background should be lighter.
  - C. Doing A & B above will help maintain the face as the focus of the portrait.

## I. Glasses:

- A. Yes they can be a real pain in a portrait. Non-reflective lenses are a big help. Better, it is really helpful to have a set of frames without the lenses. This is particularly helpful if your lenses cause some distortion to the outline of the face.

## J. Location:

- A. Yes, I am coming to your location. Your location at your home is what you need to briefly consider. If you prefer to use a background then I would need about a 10'x10' area. This is a general rule and can be adjusted depending on how large a group you want to photograph. This works pretty good for a group up to 5-7 people if some are ok with being posed on the floor.

B. Do you have special area in your home where you want some portraits made without using a backdrop? It is also possible to do some portraits using a backdrop and then some portraits using the setting of your home without a backdrop. For example: Portraits around a pool setting, some favorite landscaping, near a piano, or your child's nursery. So you see, you have many options available to you.

## K. Backgrounds

A. See D & I.B.A&B

## L. Props

A. Since you are at home you can add most anything you desire to your portraits. A favorite pet, toy, motorcycle, surfboard, musical instrument, blanket etc.