

Self-Directed Photo Shoot Tips

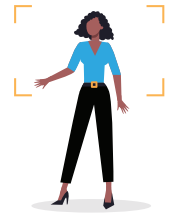


BACKGROUND

The chosen background should be one that won't be distracting and take attention away from those being photographed. Find a neutral, uncluttered background or head outside and photograph in front of landscaping or trees - making sure you're also facing the light source.

POSITIONING

It's important you're centrally positioned in front of the camera. If possible, aim to take the picture from waist up and no more than six feet away from the camera. Doing so will ensure your face can easily be seen.



ORIENTATION

Take photos with the camera in both landscape (horizontal) and portrait (vertical) positions. Utilizing both orientations ensures the most photo possibilities for web and print.

LIGHTING

You should always refrain from taking photos with your back facing the light. You'll want to make sure there isn't any shadowing around the focus of what was photographed. If you're using natural light such as a window, you should ensure you're facing the light source. Make sure to refrain from using your camera's flash, as natural daylight is one of the most attractive light sources for taking a portrait and to avoid unnecessary glares!



SELF-TIMER

When possible, prevent from taking a "selfie," which will typically result in cropped bodies and odd angles. Phones typically have a self-timer option, which is great if someone else is unable to take the photo.

CLEAN LENS

Wipe your camera lens with a cloth material before snapping the shot. Keeping your lens clean will prevent any oil smudges or lint build up appearing on your photo.



Using Previously Taken Photos



The same tips apply when looking to use a previously taken picture of you.

Ensure your background isn't distracting or cluttered – you want minimal noise in the photo. Meaning, choose pictures where there aren't any people in the background or items that take the focus away from you.

Make sure the photo wasn't taken too far away and that you're centrally positioned in front of the camera. You'll also want to make sure the image is focused – so, no significant blurriness preventing others from clearly seeing it's you!

Lighting is key! When reviewing your chosen picture, ensure the light source is in front of you and there isn't any shadowing or darkening around the focus of what was photographed.

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PHOTOS & WHY

- Good natural light source with images taken outside
- Individual is centralized in front of the camera and not skewed to one side
- Photo was taken close enough to the individual allowing his or her face to be clearly seen
- Backgrounds of each photo are not distracting

