

Total time:  
1-3 hours



■■■■■■■■■■□□□  
**Difficulty Level:** Normal

#### Skill Points:

- Portrait lighting
- Working with a teen model
- Using clothing & props creatively
- Proper framing

# CREATING PORTRAITS OF TEENS



PHOTZY.COM

This genre requires a bit of finesse learning “what’s hot” in today’s market. Of all the portrait subjects, teenagers follow trends more than any other. It is important to understand what teens, and parents, find acceptable and desirable.

**KEY LESSON:** Keep things simple. Concentrate on either a simple half body shot or a full length shot. Teens don’t always want to smile, so accommodate them, and then ask for a few smiles at the end. Let them be involved in picking the clothing and the location.

## SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT



### Camera

Any DSLR, mirrorless, hybrid, compact or smartphone



### Lens + Hood

Headshot -> 50mm - 135mm  
½ Body -> 28mm - 70mm



### Lighting

Window light, outdoor natural light, electronic flash, large bounce cards.



### Props & clothing

That meet current trends and represent the model.



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Select two models: one male and one female. Select a clean background or a storytelling background. Create one portrait of each model indoor and one outdoors.
- 2- **Indoor:** use a window with indirect bright light for your main light and the bounce cards to lighten the shadow side. **Outdoors:** shoot during the Golden Hour. Try different backgrounds. Expose for the facial skin.
- 3- Select a few simple props and clothing that compliment the backgrounds, and represent the personality of the model (Do they play sports? Do they love music?) .
- 4- Setup your camera with these general tips: **ISO:** 400 (then adjust as needed) / **Format:** RAW (preferable) / **Focus Points:** Center grouping / **Drive Mode:** Single shot / **Focus mode:** Single shot / **Metering:** Center-weighted / **Shutter Speed:** 1/250th telephoto - 1/125th wider lenses / **Shooting Mode:** Manual or aperture priority / **Aperture:** f/5.6 or wider-Make sure the depth of field covers the eyes / **White balance:** Auto
- 5- Get your camera settings and lighting figured out, and then concentrate on mood and style.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes? Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you capture a pleasant expression that pleases the teen and the parents?
- Did you frame the shot appropriately? Can you see all of the teen’s features?
- Does your portrait tell a story about the teen?

READY! SET! GO! **ACTION CARDS** - **GENRE:** PORTRAITS OF TEENS