

# JR. GRADUATE

## *Cropping and Posing the Graduate Image*

Pre-Schools, kindergartens, fifth grade and eighth grade classes often have graduation ceremonies and photo sessions. This type of promotion can get you in the door for lucrative fall and spring all school shoots.

Shown here are popular poses for the younger graduate. As in all other forms of volume photography, we strongly recommend the use of a camera mask; in fact, these masks help cropping in all types of photography. The lines here are shown in yellow for visibility; the actual lines are very thin and black. The 8x10 and 5x7 crop areas are outlined to accurate sizing in the viewfinder. Other lines allow for consistent head size and centering. To mask your camera, contact **ViewfinderMask.com. 949.573.7339**. Tell them you are a Pounds customer to receive a discount. The mask shown here is the 'Marion Mask'.

### **ABOUT CROPPING IN VOLUME PHOTOGRAPHY**

*See the next page for cropping other poses.*

**8x10 Crop Area** What will show of the image once sized to 8x10.

**Hair Line** The standard position of the top of the hair. This applies to all vertical photography. If more than one subject is in the image, this line applies to the tallest person.

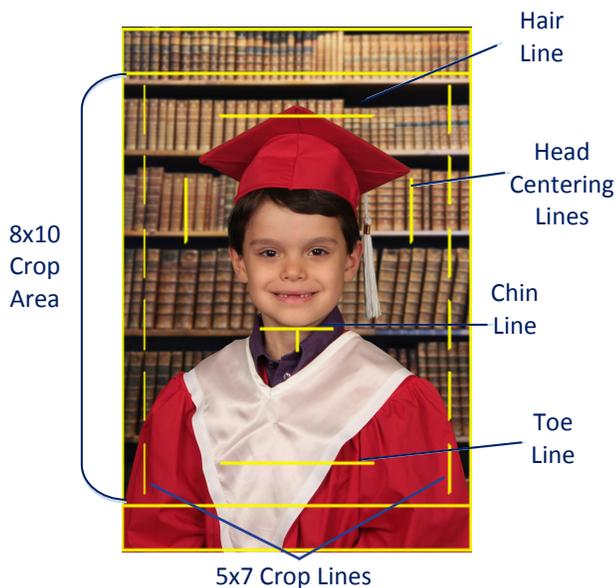
**Chin Line** By placing the chin here you achieve a standard head size as required by yearbooks. This line is not used in half-length and three-quarter poses.

**Toe Line** This line is used to denote the position of the feet in a standing full-length portrait. We also use the Toe Line as a guide for three-quarters and half-length photography.

**Head Centering Lines** Position the whole of the head equally between these lines. Show equal clear space on both sides of the head and hair.

**5x7 Crop Lines** (dashed) If you pre-crop your images to 8x10 before submitting them to the lab, A 5x7, 2x3 etc. will crop in from the sides of the 8x10 images.

If you do not pre-crop, the entire image is about a 5x7 crop. An 8x10 will be cropped from the full image top and bottom and a 5x7 will print full frame.



### **BODY POSITION & LIGHTING**

Do not sit the subject for this program. The gown will wrinkle and the student will slump.

Body turn should be slight for the younger graduate. Too much turn and the subject will appear thin. Only turn the subject about 200° to camera left. The main light should come from camera left to avoid a shadow from the tassel falling on the face. A 1:2 or 1:3 lighting ratio is fine.

White umbrellas are suggested as they will evenly illuminate the subject and the background, reducing the need for a background light. A hair light is strongly recommended to provide a more 3D effect. Hair lights are required in green screen photography.

# TRADITIONAL GRADUATE POSES



## TRADITIONAL HEAD AND SHOULDERS

Top of the cap touches the hair line and the chin contacts the chin line. Keep the hat fairly level. Tassel will always be on camera right.

*Note: Camera Left and Camera Right are the directions as seen from the photographer's point of view.*



## HOLDING THE DIPLOMA THREE-QUARTER LENGTH

A rolled up parchment with a small ribbon stands in for the diploma. The top of the hat touches the hair line and the bottom hand touches the toe line.

If holding an actual diploma, the rear hand is cupped on the bottom edge. The nearest hand is on the top corner with the index finger on top, (see 'Holding the Cap Three-Quarter Length') but keep the diploma level. Avoid glare by tilting the diploma forward slightly.



## HOLDING THE CAP HALF-LENGTH

Here the top of the head touches the hair line and the toe line touches the button on the cap.



## HOLDING THE CAP THREE-QUARTER LENGTH

Here the image is cropped at the lower hand to the toe line. This same crop is suitable for Holding the Diploma when the document is rectangular. Hold the diploma level and tilt it slightly forward to avoid glare.

# EXTRAS

## DETAILS OF HOLDING THE SCROLL DIPLOMA

- Keep the scroll close to the body
- The bottom (near) hand grasps the scroll like a bicycle handle
- The top (rear) hand touches the diploma like a flute



Date medallions must always point toward the camera

## MORE ABOUT CAPS

If you are supplying the graduation caps, implement procedures for sanitation.

Lice sprays are available. Do a light mist between subjects. Some photographers place small coffee filters in the cap. Replace the filter for each subject. The best answer is not to share caps at all.

## POPULAR FUN SHOT

A thumb up shot with the diploma is quite popular. It is commonly used when you are showing proofs. A traditional pose and a fun shot often lead to improved sales.

When doing this shot, keep the thumb hand close to the body to prevent focus, shadowing and overexposure problems.



## ALTERNATE HOLDING THE CAP

This pose is designed to show off the date medallion. The tassel is attached to the back of the cap with painters tape so that it hangs over the rim as shown. The right hand grasps the edge of the cap and the bottom finger is on the toe line. This pose takes more prep time and may not be advisable in large volume shooting.

