Play the angle game for natural light portrait photography and use side lighting. Have your natural light source fall on the subject at roughly a 45-degree angle. Avoid having the natural light source be directly behind the subject.

Shadows are your friends. Look for shaded areas to take a portrait and position the subject on the edge of that shade. This will create natural contrast or “fall-off” on the subject’s face.

Ditch the digital zoom. When using your phone camera, zooming in on the subject can significantly decrease the sharpness of the photo. Instead, physically move closer to the subject or have the subject move closer to you if possible.

Avoid visual distractions. Look at the entire frame before snapping your photo and adjust the composition or position accordingly. Look out for: trash cans, signs, distracting lights.

Composition is key. Utilize any of the basics: rule of thirds, leading lines, angle of view, balance, frame within the frame, depth-of-field, and focal point to create impactful images to give them that extra touch of professionalism. Search online for examples of each.

Break all the rules! While all these tricks will help create a balanced photo, sometimes the best tip is to break them to capture that unique shot. Understand the basics first, then go outside the norm and be innovative! Develop your own style.