

Tonight's the night: **formal**. And we all know that the one thing you have to do when you arrive—whether it be the second you get there to beat the line, mid party so everyone is preoccupied with dancing, or towards the end when people have left—is take your infamous picture in the photo booth. You get four chances, four flashes, four different poses to perfect how you will be documented on a night you may not remember. However, believe it or not, people actually ruin their pictures (sigh), making them look ridiculous, embarrassing, or downright not OK. But never fear because here it is: how to take the perfect photo booth pictures at a formal, the dos and don'ts.

**The duck/kissy face was, is, and will never be cute.**

I say duck slash kissy because let's be honest, it is the exact same face. To all the girls out there who pout their lips, stick their necks forward and their butts back to create the duck/kissy face: just stop. If you think you look good, I promise you don't. What is wrong with your actual smile? I'm sure it's great! Show those pearly whites with confidence. Smiling is proof that you are having fun at formal (which you obviously are). The duck/kissy face is proof that you can impersonate a bird. Leave it to the ducks to make their prime pose, and leave it to the girlfriend to give a kiss on the cheek to her boyfriend.

**Keep. Your. Clothes. On.**

PLEASE! No one needs to see nudity in a confined space with pictures from a camera that may or may not (but probably will) be publicized. Girls: yes, maybe you worked out all month (so hard!) to finally be able to fit in to that dress you were dying to wear. You may feel super confident with that new bod of yours, but keep it to yourself! We all see you in the dress; you look good, we get it. No need to take a picture to record this happy moment of yours. Guys: if I actually need to say something here, we have bigger issues. Keep the clothes on because they are supposed to be shown in your pictures. When the flash goes off, the clothes stay on. Let's stay classy ladies and gents!

**The make outs.**

It's obvious right? No matter what: if you are a couple or not, the last picture is always a swift kiss on the lips. While this is cute under certain circumstances, it could take a turn for the worse. So unless you are super prepared (discuss the plan—the way you turn your head, the hand placement, and the possible regrets), do not do the make out picture. If your last picture is of you and your date, or of you and your friend smiling, it will be just as adorable! You may even want to keep it instead of burning four photos all together just because of that one regrettable make out photo.

**Just because you're in a booth doesn't mean it's private.**

Did you really just motorboat her chest? Did you just stick your tongue through your two fingers? Are your hands really down/up there right now? NO! Just, no. Take a second to reflect on these questions and your reactions to them. Not pleasant, right? Because photo booth is not the place for this! Maybe you are hot for each other and it's in the moment, but come on. There is a time and bed for that. You may be in a private booth for a solid thirty seconds, but newsflash! When you leave that booth everything you did in private is now open for the public on photo paper. We understand that college kids have their needs, but have those needs after formal, not during a photographed session.

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Greek Article

Don't we all love free photos; four picture perfect memories that we can hold on to forever? Next time you step foot in a photo booth at formal, you will hear these four points screaming in your head. If followed, there's no doubt you will take four fantabulous (yes, fantabulous) pictures that will forever be cherished. And just remember, everyone (and I mean everyone) will definitely see these photos. Be safe, have fun, and happy photo booth taking!