

## A Graduated Makeup Style

Graduation these days is nothing like it used to be. It's now a mini event that comes with a mega price tag once the dress, shoes and jewelry are purchased. Not to mention other accessories and extras such as stretch limos, white ponies and professional photo shoots. While it can become as small or big of a production as you want it to be, there is no doubt that the female graduate will want to look decked out and dazzling for her big night.

Just because you will be wearing a fabulous dress and have your hair done up does not mean that it's time to overdo the makeup. Many graduates are naturally beautiful and while you may want to match your eye shadow to your dress to your shoes, I wouldn't recommend it.

With any big upcoming event, you want to try out your new look before you step out for the night. This means that you've got to take some time to play with your makeup to figure out how you will create the overall look that you want. It is stressful to try anything new when you are pressured for time and don't have the chance to "undo" or change anything you don't like. You may be tempted to get all matchy-matchy but it is better to find shades that complement your dress rather than distract from it. You are, after all, the main focus.

Pictures in magazines are great for helping figure out whether you want to feature your eyes or feature your lips or have an all-over natural look. Once you've determined your focus point, you can start to choose colors. Keep in mind that twenty years from now, you want your hair and makeup to look timeless and classic. Bold colors, superstar glitter and multiple layers of eyeliner will not create that long-lasting and polished effect.

If your dress is red, consider a neutral brown or grey palette to downplay the eyes. If you decide to make your lips as red as your dress, your eyes need to be soft and simple with minimal to no color on the eye lids and just a touch of liner and mascara.

If your dress is black or white, you have more options with how you do your makeup, so take into consideration your personal eye and skin color and aim to complement it. You can choose a standout lip color or highlight the eye with warm shades of color on the eye lids but don't do both.

Makeup "experts" might suggest that a strong eye and strong lip at the same time do work this season, but at the end of the day, this is real life, not a runway and you need to remember to choose your best feature and make it amazing!

Dresses in rich colors such as a deep navy, emerald green or majestic purple are strong all by themselves, so you may want to keep your makeup simple. Give your skin a beautiful glow by adding a touch of bronzer to your foundation. You can then pick up a touch of the color from your dress and interject it onto your eyes in a subtle way by using an eyeliner in a similar shade.

Glosses are fun, reflective and fresh and make the lips look full and made up without being high maintenance. Throw a gloss that has very minimal color in your purse and reapply as you need it

throughout the night. A gloss full of glitter or sparkles is not quite appropriate for young ladies on their way into the real world.

Most importantly, walk into the room with confidence and a smile and be proud of the woman you are becoming every day! You have accomplished a great thing and are only at the beginning of more good to come. Congratulations!

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