

HOW TO ASK SOMEONE TO BE YOUR VALENTINE

BY KYLIE STAFFORD

If you are struggling to decide how best to ask someone to be your valentine this year, here are two cute ways to help you share your feelings simply and with sincerity.

Option 1: The Forward Route a.k.a. The Poster Best for Couples

Step 1. Make a nice poster. Use lots of reds and pinks with hearts. Adding a cute pun is optional but very cute! Some fun puns:

- *I love you a latte!* And have a little coffee cup on the side.

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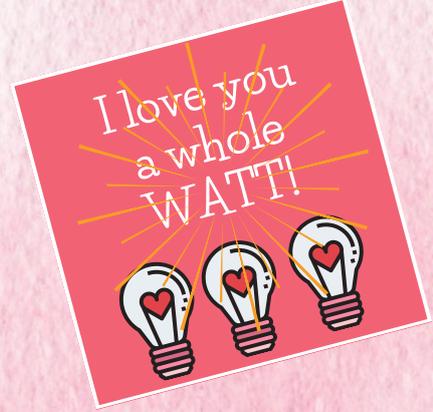
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- *I love you a whole watt!* And add some sparks and lighting.
- *You're shrimply the best!* And add a cute little shrimp.



Step 2. Know your person's schedule and find the best time to ask them! Either feel out the best time to ask or subtly hint around.

Step 3. After figuring out the spot, now it's time to plan how you're gonna ask them. Are you going to just walk in the room and show them the poster or are you going to do a little extra pizzazz? Get creative and find out how your soon-to-be Valentine would like to be asked.

Step 4. Ask them! You can do it!



Option 2: Not So Subtle, Not So Forward a.k.a. The Card Best for Non-Couples

There really is no subtle way to ask someone to be your Valentine besides cheesily putting a note in an inconspicuous place where they typically look, but that way is very awkward and maybe not such a good method! So, do not hide notes! This is not a High School Sitcom!

If you do want to give someone a Valentine's Day card that is totally a cute method if you don't want to be too forward, and if you aren't already in a relationship with this person! A hand-made card is a nice way to ask someone without a lot of pressure. Everyone appreciates a nicely-made genuine card, and if they don't, you probably dodged a bullet when they said no.

Step 1. Find some construction paper, either red, pink, purple, or white is appropriate! Or if you want - that would be super cute - use the person's favorite color.

Step 2. Decorate it with some Valentine's day themes, and you can even add some puns on the inside if you're brave enough.

Step 3. Know the person's schedule if you don't already have a class with them.

Step 4. Hand it to them! It's easier said than done but don't worry about it, you got it!

Good Luck and Happy Valentine's Day! <3

OVERCOMING BURNOUT: WHAT CAN TEACHERS DO TO BE GREAT?

By Tyler Felts

Teaching is one of the most important jobs in the entire world. Teachers are some of the key role models to millions of young people's lives, and shape the children of the world by implanting knowledge within them and teaching respect, discipline and hard work so that they can become productive members of our society. Teachers can make a very impactful difference in a child's life, and can cause children to pursue different pathways and careers through the things that they teach, and the way that they act. Teachers can cause children to want to become doctors, and pursue a career within the medical field so that they can save lives, or can make a child realize that they love to write, making them become an author who helps provide a source of comfort and entertainment to the people. Now unfortunately, this kind of thing does not always happen. A teacher can also cause a child to think that they are stupid and not meant for school, causing them to drop out and become unemployed. A teacher can be insulting and rude to a student, cause a child to hate authority, and begin disobeying the rules of people within their lives. Teachers shape the children, and therefore, shape the future. That is why it is one of the most important jobs in the world.

Teaching, along with being one of the most important and influential jobs in the world, is also one of the most difficult. Many teachers, every single day that they come to work, have to repeat the same lecture to multiple students over and over again, have to publicly speak in front of entire classes of students, have to try and get children to understand sometimes difficult material, and make the children interested in it, even if they aren't, AND have to deal with and sometimes discipline children who are misbehaving in the classroom. All of that isn't even diving into the other problems teachers have to deal with on a daily basis, OUTSIDE of the classroom. Endless tests and essays teachers have to go over and grade, dealing with constantly changing rules within the school system, responding to hundreds of emails by staff, students and parents about both grades and attendance and a plethora of other things. The job can be extremely draining mentally. If you research how many teachers feel that they are drained from their job, a study conducted in 2020 covered on Gallup.com reports that K-12 teachers have some of the highest burnout rates out of every single profession, with a whopping 52% of teachers claiming that they feel burnt out by teaching. Some teachers do have some unique tactics to prevent burnout at their job. There's the teacher who just hands out those freakin' packets yo!

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OVERCOMING BURNOUT (CONT'D)

Some teachers like to blast rock music in their room so they have some nice tunes to listen to while they teach. And some just yap for the entire class to pass the time.

Since teaching is such a stressful and sometimes demanding job, many teachers, because of the burnout, are unable to demonstrate some of the qualities of being a great teacher towards their students. We asked around, and found that these were the top 3 things that a teacher can practice in order to counteract burnout and be a great teacher.

- **Communication:** One of the first and most important things that make a great teacher is communication. Communication is key to becoming a great teacher, and having good communication skills can really connect a teacher with their students and build respect. Communication also helps with overall teaching ability, because better communicators are able to explain difficult concepts in a simple way.
- **Engagement:** Being an engaging teacher and making students be engaged with the work is probably one of the hardest but one of the most important parts of teaching, especially with burnout. Creating engaging content for your student makes your student way more likely to remember and actually enjoy the content that you teach and can push students to perhaps want to learn more about that certain topic, and maybe make it their career path.
- **Empathy:** You may not think having empathy is that important when being a teacher, but it is very important. Having empathy and considering the needs of your students builds a sense of respect and trust between teacher and student and makes your students feel that they are capable of doing the work assigned, feel that they are actually liked by the teacher, and be more likely to listen and be respectful in a classroom.

These 3 things, if you practice them, are what makes a great teacher, and therefore, makes better students, and ultimately, makes a better and more productive future.



Top 10 Elementary School Supplies: The True Ranking

By Kylie Stafford

10. The Extra Safe Safety Scissors

I understand that they're supposed to be "super safe" and prevent you from cutting your hands, but the fact that I still saw these in 2nd grade was a crime, they don't even cut anything.



9. Cra-Z-Art Markers

These things are always dry and they make the most annoying squeaking sounds because of it. No ink, only squeak.



8. Crayola Markers

Just a step up from Cra-Z-Art but they were always hit or miss on whether it'd be filled to the brim with ink or squeaking on its last breath specifically mid-way through the drawing.



7. Regular Glue Stick

Nothing beats the first time being able to wield your own glue stick and possibly putting some on your hands to cause your fingers to stick together then do the little pinch-y claws seeing how weird it was to stick and unstick your fingers.



6. Purple Glue Stick

It's purple!



Keep Scrolling...
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Ranking School Supplies (Cont'd)

5. Bandy Pencils

These things were the golden find on the classroom floor, but they weren't actually that bendy. Mine broke instantly and I will never forgive nor forget.



4. Crayola Thin Markers

I don't know but they were just different than the bigger markers, they spoke to me. The ink was always mad nice and the coloring inside the lines was to a T.



3. A Sharpie

If you got this in elementary school you know the true feeling of power. To hold a Sharpie prior to the age of 10 felt like it was against the law, and the pure fear that it was truly permanent and would stick to skin forever like a tattoo...horrifying.



2. Mr. Sketch Smelly Markers

When my art teacher would put these out the crowd actually went wild. They're so cool - even if they risk the death of brain cells when you smell them.

1. The Giant Crayola Crayon Set with the Pencil Sharpener!!!

Holy grail. If you pulled up to school with this bad boy you might as well rule the halls. The true perfection of it. All those colors and even a way to make them look brand new; it was genius and I still want one to this day.



It's THE Season FOR HOT Cocoa

By Nora Snyder

This winter season, get ready to bundle up with a nice cup of hot cocoa with these DIY hot chocolate bombs that you can make at home! Here's a recipe inspired [this one](#) I found online.

Tools & Ingredients needed:

- Silicon sphere mold
- Piping bag
- Mini marshmallows
- Clean paint brush
- Good quality bar chocolate
- Hot chocolate mix
- Thermometer
- Parchment paper



First, you need to get your bar chocolate and chop it up into fine pieces to ensure that it melts evenly. Make sure there aren't any chunks!

Next, you need to temper your chocolate. Do this by placing the chopped chocolate into the microwave for 30 seconds exactly, then when it is finished, use a spatula to scrape the chocolate from the edges back into the middle to make sure that it is heating evenly. Then place your chocolate back into the microwave for 15 additional seconds and stir again, scraping the edges into the middle. Finally, take the temperature of your chocolate and make sure it's not above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (~32 degrees Celsius). Repeat this process until the chocolate is almost completely melted, and continue to keep the temperature below 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

Next, to test that your chocolate is tempered, pour some out onto parchment paper and put it in the fridge for 5 minutes. If it comes out shiny and snaps loudly when you break it, then your chocolate is tempered.

Next, grab your sphere molds and make sure they are clean. Then paint a thin layer of chocolate on the inside of the mold using a clean paintbrush, and put into the fridge for 5 minutes to set. Add a second layer of chocolate on the inside of the molds once set, and be sure to build up the edges to make sure they are strong. After the chocolate is set for a second time, it should be able to easily come out of the mold.

Then to fill the molds! Take your hot chocolate powder and marshmallows and fill the chocolate half spheres about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way full. Next, take some of the melted chocolate and put it in a piping bag, then pipe some chocolate on the edge of the half sphere and place the second half on top and carefully press it to seal. Make sure to remove any excess chocolate from the outside before it sets. Repeat this for all of the chocolate spheres, and then you're set! Now you get to enjoy delicious hot chocolate whenever you want!

