



Thank a Teacher

Guide for Older Students



Writing down your appreciation for your teacher is a great way to thank them for all their support, dedication, and passion for teaching. Consider also thanking the paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, principals, administrative assistants, and/or lunch staff who have made an impact on you this year.

Activity 1: Thank You Note

In this activity, you will write a thank-you note to a teacher. This could take the form of a handwritten note or card.

Items you will need:

- Paper or card
- Pen or pencil

Instructions:

1. Think about why you are thankful for your teacher. Below are some prompts to get you started:
 - a. My favorite lesson in class has been ...
 - b. The coolest/most interesting/most fun topic we studied was ...
 - c. It was really nice when you ...
 - d. The thing I will always remember from your class is ...
 - e. You've inspired me to ...
 - f. I'll never forget the time you helped me with ...
2. Write your note! Start with "Dear Ms./Mrs./Mr." and then "I'm writing this note to thank you" or a similar opening. Then write down why you are grateful for your teacher.
3. You could include a drawing or other hand-drawn decorations to make your note stand out.
4. Make sure you sign your note so your teacher knows who wrote it.
5. Put the note in an envelope and write your teacher's name on the front. You could decorate the envelope too!
6. Deliver your note in person or through the mail.





Activity 2: Collage

In this activity, you will make a collage by cutting out words and pictures and arranging and pasting them together to express appreciation to your teacher.

Items you will need:

- Newspapers, magazines, or old books that you can cut up (you may have these at home, you could ask a family member or friend, or you could pick some up from the thrift store)
- Scissors
- Gluestick
- A piece of paper to glue your collage onto
- Pens, markers, or crayons for decorating the collage

Instructions:

1. Brainstorm some things you might thank your teacher for. These could be specific lessons, skills, or actions that you remember and are grateful for.
2. Gather your collage materials.
3. Cut out any words, pictures, and/or letters that inspire you or are related to the reasons you are thanking your teacher. For now, pick any words that stand out to you. You could also pick words that remind you of your teacher.
4. Move your cut-out words and pictures around on the page. See how they fit together and overlap like a puzzle.
 - a. You can rearrange the words you find (or break them apart into smaller words) to create a poem or a message.
 - b. You can try some “blackout poetry.” This is when you cut out a whole paragraph and scribble over the words you don’t want until only the words you want remain.
5. Once you’re happy with your layout, start gluing things down. Start with the bigger scraps of paper, then layer the smaller pieces on top.
6. Don’t forget to sign your work! If you have one on hand, you could put your collage in a picture frame. Or simply put it in an envelope to deliver to your teacher.

Guide for Older Students Continued



Activity 3: Appreciation Collection

This activity requires a little bit of coordination with your classmates and involves collecting short thank-yous to place in a jar or box that you then give to your teacher.

Items you will need:

- Jar or small box
- Ribbon or markers or other items for decorating the jar or box (optional)
- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut several pieces of paper into small strips (big enough to write a 1- to 2-sentence note on).
2. Distribute the strips of paper to several other students willing to give thanks to a specific teacher or staff member. Ask them to share a short note of appreciation for that person.
 - a. If you're doing this during the school day, it might be a good idea to plan to do this at lunchtime or during a study hall. You wouldn't want to spoil the surprise!
 - b. You could also plan to do this during or as part of an after-school activity, depending on the availability of the other students you're hoping to get appreciations from.
 - c. Take advantage of email and/or texting: One person could collect thank-yous from other students digitally and either write the messages out by hand or print them in a variety of fonts and colors.
3. Collect the strips of paper with the thank-yous.
4. Put the thank-yous in a jar or box. Decorate the container if you'd like. One idea is to write "Thank you" and the recipient's name on the outside.
5. Write a small note explaining what the gift is and how you put it together. Make sure to either attach this note to the outside of the jar/box or hand it to your teacher directly.
6. Give the appreciation gift to your teacher!

