

DEV 110 Sample Essay: Process

How to Entertain



I have always enjoyed entertaining people in my home. Over the years I have discovered three requirements to make entertaining successful: creating a relaxing atmosphere, providing lots of good food, and having many amusing things to do.

As far as creating a relaxing atmosphere is concerned, there are many ways to accomplish this. One way is by inviting guests that are compatible. Another way to provide a relaxing atmosphere is to make sure that guests have something in common. Pleasant conversation is always a must, and it leads to a most relaxing atmosphere. Depending on the particular occasion, it is also possible to add atmosphere with decorations such as hats and horns at a birthday party or ghosts and jack o'lanterns at a Halloween party. If I can create an atmosphere that is both friendly and relaxing, my entertaining is off to a good start.

I find my favorite part of entertaining is preparing a bounty of good food. I love to cook and experiment with different types of foods for many different occasions. One of the easiest types of food preparation for a party is the buffet, a dining arrangement featuring a table laden with plenty of food, organized so that the guests can walk around the table from both sides and fill their plates. I can set up a simple buffet with turkey and roast beef slices, salads, hot vegetables, and succulent desserts. Coffee and tea or soft drinks are the common beverages that are served with a buffet. If I decide to, I can also serve mixed drinks. I find it quite a challenge to try different styles of cooking for parties. It gives me the opportunity to create new and different dishes. One of my specialties is a Mexican meal of enchiladas, tacos, and refried beans, served with cold iced tea. Another of my specialties is an Italian meal of spaghetti, accompanied with piping hot garlic bread fresh from the oven. This meal can be highlighted by serving a chilled red wine. I've found that good food is a complement to any type of entertaining.

After I have created a relaxing atmosphere and filled my guests' stomachs with good food, the last item on the agenda is amusement. I can amuse my guests in a variety of ways. When I entertain, several card tables are set up with many different games on them: card games such as pinochle, euchre, and Rook and party games like Aggravation and Yachtzee. Of course, there are always some guests who do not enjoy playing games. They can be entertained with pleasant conversation. Also, it is always fun to gather around a piano or organ to sing songs like "Yankee Doodle," "Down In The Valley," and "The Yellow Rose of Texas." Generally, if there is a variety of amusements provided, the guests will entertain themselves by joining in whatever they find enjoyable.

There are two ways to determine the success of my party. One guaranteed way is checking to see if I have provided my guests with the three necessities I have mentioned: a relaxing atmosphere, plenty of food, and a variety of entertainment. Another method of judging the success of my party is watching my guests to see if they are enjoying themselves as the evening progresses.

How to Buy a Diamond



Every year many couples become engaged and find themselves shopping around for a diamond engagement ring. Many times this search turns into a confusing task. One simply cannot look to a Consumer Report to find specifics on a diamond ring. However, this process can be made quite simple if the prospective buyer follows a few simple guidelines. First, he should know the three C's of a diamond; secondly, find a respectable jeweler; and thirdly, choose a style that his fiancée will be happy with for many years to come.

First, the prospective buyer should familiarize himself with the three C's of a diamond. Every diamond has its own characteristics which determine its value. Most important is color. Every diamond possesses color, but it is the absence of color that increases the value of this gem. Second only to color is the cut. How the fifty-eight facets are cut in relation to the weight determines the value of the diamond. On an ideally cut diamond, 53% of the weight is at the girdle or middle part of the diamond. Clarity is less important than cut and color. Clarity is a value based on the number of inclusions that a diamond contains. An ideal diamond, sometimes called a "perfect diamond," would be one without any inclusions. The least important characteristic of a diamond is its weight; that is, the number of carats it contains. A diamond that ranks high in color, cut, and clarity but weighs only .50 carats is worth more than a 1 carat stone with poor color, cut, and clarity.

After the buyer has become familiar with the three C's of a diamond, he should find a reputable jeweler to do business with. The majority of jewelers in business today are reputable. The buyer should find out if the jeweler offers a bond that states exactly what the customer is buying. The buyer should request an appraisal and have the jeweler sign it. The customer should also find out if the jeweler offers some sort of guarantee in case the diamond comes out of the mounting. In addition, the buyer should inquire about whether the salesperson or someone within the store is a graduate of the Gemology Institute of America or certified by the Diamond Council of America. If any doubt remains, he can check with the Better Business Bureau.

Third, and equally important, is finding a style the buyer's fiancé will be happy with for many years to come. Today, diamond rings come in such a variety of styles that the buyer can easily be confused. He should always consider the type of hand on which the ring will be worn. If his fiancé's fingers are short and stubby, he should avoid styles that have wide bands. Not only do wide bands accentuate short fingers, but also they often detract from a pretty diamond. Furthermore, the buyer should keep in mind that simplicity is elegance in fine jewelry. Traditional mountings are always in style, and the wearer won't likely become bored with them. In general, the buyer should choose a band that will complement his fiancé's engagement ring since both rings are frequently worn on the same finger.

If the above process is followed, buying a diamond ring need not be a confusing task after all. If the buyer knows the three C's of a diamond, finds a reputable jeweler, and considers the style of the ring, he more than likely will choose--with the help of his fiancé, of course--a beautiful ring that will last a lifetime. Such a ring will definitely enhance a couple's engagement.