

Great Gifts for Your Student

It's important that your student knows you're still thinking about her, despite distance, and thoughtful birthday, graduation, and holiday gifts are a way to do just that. While money is always a welcome gift, sometimes it's nice for students to have something to actually open.

Gifts for any Student

- **A new set of towels.** Getting them monogrammed with your son or daughter's initials is a nice touch.
- **A digital camera.** These are ubiquitous around college campuses these days, and it makes it easier for your child to send you pictures of their friends, their room, and campus.
- **An iTunes music card.** These gift cards are used specifically to buy music from iTunes. This way, students are less likely to use their own savings to buy songs or albums and you have the peace of mind knowing that they aren't downloading their music illegally.
- **A copy of Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*.** They might not seem very exciting, but this book will definitely come in handy. Also not a bad idea is a copy of the most recent MLA guide to documentation (which is called, surprisingly, *A Guide to MLA Documentation*). This booklet outlines the proper way to cite almost anything, from a book to a magazine to a website. Correctly documenting sources will keep your student away from the threat of plagiarism!
- **A closet organizer.** These can be cloth or plastic, and hang from the bar inside a closet. They act as extra drawers or shelves, and they fold up to a fraction of their size when they're empty.

Gifts for Students Moving off Campus

- **A frying pan, a medium sized pot, a wooden spoon, etc.** Kitchen utensils are sure to be used and will definitely be appreciated.
- **A throw blanket.** These are good to have in the living room, and they're not necessarily something a college student would think about buying – until they get cold on the couch!
- **A DVD tower.** Now that your student has more room, he can spread his things out more decoratively. Chances are that your student isn't the only

It Really IS the Thought That Counts!

Gifts don't need to be extravagant to be meaningful. A good book, a magazine that's a "guilty pleasure" like *US Weekly*, some nice lotion, a fun deck of cards, candy from your hometown chocolate shop... all that matters is the thought. What would your student think of as a treat?

one with DVDs, and a tower allows everyone to keep their movies organized and easy to find.

- **A bedside table.** In most residence hall rooms, desks pushed right up next to beds serve as nightstands, but once a student moves off campus he or she is more likely to have space to put a little table beside the bed. A good addition to this is a medium-sized lamp or a new alarm clock.
- **A poster, tapestry, or other wall hanging.** Students probably won't be allowed to paint their new rooms, but that doesn't mean they can't decorate!

Gifts for Graduates

- **Homey items.** If they're moving into an apartment or house right away, some good ideas are items for their new place, like a comforter or duvet cover, curtains, or decorative pillows.
- **A subscription to a favorite magazine.** This is especially nice if your student is moving somewhere far away, or if she doesn't know many people where she will be living. This way, there will be something fun and familiar waiting in her mailbox at least once a month.
- **A laptop.** Depending on how much you were planning to spend on the graduation gift and how much in need of a computer update your son or daughter is, this can be an excellent gift. Recent grads are very likely to move several times before finally deciding on where to live for a long period, and having a laptop makes transitions like that easier. Laptops are portable, easy to carry, and make moving a lot easier than packing up a monitor, tower, keyboard, mouse, and all the cords.

