

Your time is the greatest gift you can give - though we know that to a young person who is excited about receiving presents, this may not seem true! Think something small, inexpensive, and meaningful, if you decide to give an actual present. One of the best gifts to give is an experience:

- Making artwork (that perhaps you take and glaze or frame)
- Making cards or other art pieces for each other
- Bringing in a kit or supplies for something your mentee can continue working on at home
- Putting together an iTunes playlist and burning a CD are all activities that continue to build your friendship while also being a little more special

Last, a caution: remember that a gift is a gift.

If you give a gift, your mentee gets to choose what to do with it. Some mentors become disappointed or resentful if their mentee doesn't use the gift as intended or if the gift becomes lost or damaged. If you let negative feelings about the gift enter your relationship, that thinking can damage other parts of the mentoring experience. While we hope you will not feel this disappointment, your Mentor Director can help you process these feelings and offer the perspective that you are respecting your mentee's individuality and voice.