

# How to make your proposal perfect

(BPT) - You've picked the perfect ring. You've practiced the words you'll use when you propose. But you know she would be livid if you asked her on the big screen at a sporting event.

Making an engagement truly memorable will win you points for a lifetime each time she retells your engagement story. These tips will help your engagement stick out. With so many engagements between Christmas and Valentine's Day, here are some great ways to make your engagement be one of a kind.

## Take it personally

You are proposing to the woman or man of your dreams. The one person you've chosen to spend the rest of your life with. The person who is the perfectly unique match to yourself. So, make the proposal just as personalized and special as that person. Yes, you may have chosen the perfect ring, but presentation is equally important.

Choose something that will not only stun your betrothed, but also be something he or she can keep for years. Ditch the typical velvet box and go for a personalized, engraved keepsake box from Things Remembered. With dozens of box options, you can perfectly match the style of your new fiancé, from classic and elegant to contemporary chic.

Then, take it one step further and engrave something meaningful to commemorate this day. Your names, the date you were engaged or a personal love saying (that maybe only the two of you understand) are ideal inscriptions.

## Make it a party

Yes, the holiday season is filled with parties, but a personal engagement party is something that you and your families will remember forever. Whether you choose a private, intimate locale to pop the question or a bustling public setting, convene family and friends dur-

ing or afterward to celebrate together. Plan a special party to commemorate this momentous, life-changing occasion.

Don't forget, a great party doesn't necessarily mean great expense. Gathering at home with champagne, maybe a cheese plate and a homemade music playlist can make for one of the most memorable occasions of your life. Just be sure your future spouse is the center of attention, and you'll be set to make the event unforgettable.

## Capture the moment

Nearly all couples choose to hire photographers and videographers to capture the memories of their wedding day. But isn't the engagement just as momentous? As your heart begins to race when your knee bends toward the ground, the last thing on your mind will be your camera. But being able to actually look back at this moment will be something you'll treasure for years to



come.

The holidays are busy for everyone, so if you plan on hiring a professional photographer, make sure to call at least a few weeks in advance. Luckily, unlike your wedding day, you'll probably only need the photogra-

pher for an hour or so. If you're already on a shoestring budget, see if a photography enthusiast friend will take photos for you. They may not end up in The Louvre, but with a decent camera, you'll be sure to have some great snapshots

of the big moment.

When it's all said and done, you and your new fiancé may not remember every tiny detail. But using these simple tips will ensure your engagement day is a truly unique, memorable experience for you both.

# The second time around

You're getting married again, but this time, it is for keeps. You have found your soul mate, and the two of you want to express your love for each other and exchange vows in front of everyone you know. You're definitely going to have a wedding, and as the bride, one of the first questions you have is what type of dress and accessories to wear. This is your second wedding, after all. You're not supposed to wear white, right? Wrong!

The notion that women getting married again should not wear white is passé. A symbol of joy and commitment, white makes an excel-

lent choice for a wedding dress color the second, third or subsequent time around. Off-white, ivory and pastels are also popular. Brides can even disband with light colors altogether and go for bolder, deeper colors, like burgundy, dark green or red.

The dress chosen should reflect the time, size and tone of the wedding, as well as the bride's personality, lifestyle and fashion sense. It should also flatter her body type, playing up her strengths and downplaying her weaknesses.

As for accessories, brides getting married again may go with almost anything but a blusher. Experts advise

against this and suggest brides that want to wear a veil let it trail down their back. For those who choose not to wear a veil, hats, hair ornaments and fresh flowers make excellent substitutes.

When it comes to the dress and accessories for your second wedding, you practically have free reign. You can go with the traditional or spread your wings and try something new. You may wear a gorgeous beaded white dress with a long train or a short red dress with spaghetti straps. It is entirely up to you. Just make sure you look stunning!

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