

The premise for my slideshow is this: You are a classroom of high school students, and I'm telling you about an upcoming program at the local public library.

### Slide 1

First, I'd like to thank your teacher for inviting me here to speak to you today. You might be wondering: "Why is a librarian talking to us right now? Is my teacher assigning us a paper that's due this Friday before we leave for Winter Break, and is the librarian here to teach us how to cite our sources?" Relax. I'm here to tell you about an exciting program that's taking place at Anytown Public Library on Friday afternoon.

### Slide 2

The program is called "Cheap, Yet Chic, Holiday Gifts." I, and a few other Teen Services librarians, will be helping you create stylish presents for your friends and family. The program will start at 3:00 p.m.—right after school—and end at 5:00 p.m. Since this school is only four blocks from the library, it'll be really easy to stop by after your last class on Friday.

### Slide 3

The inspiration for this program is a book called *Alternacrafts: 20+ Hi-Style, Lo-Budget Projects to Make* by Jessica Vitkus. Jessica knows a little something about crafting. She has written craft stories for Martha Stewart magazines and has designed craft projects for Martha Stewart Living TV. If Jessica has designed crafts for Martha Stewart, you know that she has to be good.

#### Slide 4

Jessica's craft projects are unique because they use recycled materials. Using common household items, Jessica has created sachets, bouquets of flowers, CD covers, wallets and even handmade gift tags. At the library, we're going to have crafting stations set up for you to create all five projects. The entire program is free of charge.

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The first craft items that I'm going to tell you about are called Stitch-O-Licious Sachets. They'd be great gifts for your mom, grandma or aunt. During this presentation, I'm going to list the materials that we'll be using to create each project. We'll have all the supplies that you'll need to create all five craft projects at the library when you arrive, but you can make your gift even more personal by bringing your own supplies.

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While you read through the list of materials, and maybe even take some notes about items that you might want to bring from home, I'll tell you more about the steps involved in creating the sachets. First, you'll make a heart template using heavy paper. Then, you'll cut the heart shapes from fabric. Next, using basic embroidery stitches, you'll sew buttons onto one fabric heart...

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...and embroider flower petals around the buttons. You'll sew the fabric hearts together, add some lavender, chamomile, or mint-scented sachet filler, and finish the edges. If you're worried about sewing, don't be. Katie, one of our Teen Services librarians, is an expert. She'll help you make sachets that look like they were purchased at a pricey boutique.

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The next items that you'll be able to make are Newspaper Flowers. Trust me: They'll stay fresh for months and never need watering. You can use sophisticated magazine pages or the Sunday comics to add some bright colors to your bouquet. Not only will you be creating cool gifts for friends and family: you'll also be recycling newspapers in the process.

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The first step in creating these flowers is to cut six 9-inch newspaper or magazine squares. You'll then fold the squares into triangles and cut petals into the triangles. Next, you'll need to unfold and stack layers of petals. Then, you'll create a stem using an 8-inch length of wire. You'll thread the petals onto the stem one by one...

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...and close the flower. Then you'll bind the base of the flower with clear tape. You'll wrap green floral tape around the base of the flower to cover the clear tape. Next, you'll continue to wrap the entire wire stem. The last step is to open the flower. You can create as many flowers as you'd like; a single flower takes only about 10 minutes to make.

### Slide 11

If you like downloading music and scrapbooking, you'll love the next project. You can be a graphic designer for a day when you customize the cover of a mixed CD. It's the perfect gift for a friend, sibling, or significant other. You can bring a CD from home, or burn one at the library. We'll make sure that you have access to the library's computers. After you burn the CD, you can make a song list.

### Slide 12

You'll create a Word document, making sure that the text is no larger than 4-and-three-quarter inches; otherwise, it won't fit into the case. We'll have paper on hand for you to print out your list. You could also write out the song list by hand for a more personal touch. The next step is to cut out a 4-and-three-quarter inch CD cover base from card stock.

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You'll then use text from magazines, photos, stickers and more to decorate the CD cover base. Next, you'll need to cut out your song list and glue it to the back of the CD cover art you've just made. The last two steps are decorating the top of the CD itself with permanent markers and thin stickers and placing the cover art and song list into the CD case.

### Slide 14

Additional items that we'll be creating are Snack-Wrapper Wallets. These would make wonderful gifts for your friends. Using plastic and foil food wrappers, you'll be able to create a carrying case for everything from credit and debit cards to a school ID—or maybe even a library card. In only about an hour or so, you'll be able to turn a Pop Tart wrapper into Pop Art!

### Slide 15

Once again, we'll be recycling. This time, we'll be using old snack packaging from Doritos, Reese's Pieces, Power Bars and more and sewing it just like fabric. The first step in this process will be to use the templates that we'll have ready for you to create the front and back of the wallet. The front template is traced over the snack wrapper, and the back template will be traced onto oilcloth.

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You'll then sew the front and back flaps together. Next, you'll open the front and back flaps and sew a second line of stitches. You'll then trace and cut wallet pocket flaps using our templates and a plastic report cover. Then you'll sew in the pockets with bias tape edging, tuck the tape on the inside and finish sewing. The last step is to fold the whole thing in half.

### Slide 17

By this point, you'll have made some fabulous gifts to give to your friends and family. Why not make your gifts even more special by adding handmade gift tags? Or, you can get an early start on your thank you cards at the library. In only about 5 minutes, you can pierce Pin-Tastic, custom gift tags and thank you cards with names or monograms.

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The first step in making these tags and cards is to make a template. You'll draw, trace or print out your design onto lightweight paper. Next, you'll cut out or fold the heavy paper into a size that you'd like. Then, you'll set up your piercing station on a piece of cork board that we'll have ready for you at the library. You'll place the template on top of the tag or card and pierce your design using pushpins.

### Slide 19

If you're not into arts and crafts, you can just stop by the library to hang out with your friends while they work on their projects. We're going to provide you with free, holiday-themed snacks. Plus, we're going to have the library's Nintendo Wii gaming system and some board games set up if you need a break from crafting. And don't forget to check out some of our new books for Young Adults while you're there.

Slide 20

Does this picture look familiar? If so, be sure to stop by the library this Friday from 3-5. You can make as many or as few gifts as you'd like at no cost to you. So when the last bell rings and school is out for Winter Break, I hope that you'll join me and the other Teen Services librarians at the library to create some Cheap, Yet Chic, Holiday Gifts.