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WEDDING LOVE LETTERS & VOWS



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Tips on Writing Your Vows

Talk to your officiant if you are having traditional vows but would like to include nontraditional vows too. Often, they can incorporate them into your service.

If you have been to premarital counseling – talk to the counselor. They may have a template for you. The internet also has some very good starting templates. It is not “cheating” to look at other people’s vows and get an idea where to start. Use those to reflect on your own relationship and then apply to make your own unique story and vows.

Decide as a couple what structure you will follow. Decide on the length of your vows. Two to four minutes read aloud is a good time length in general. Decide how many “points” each of you will make and what format you will follow. Such as, will you both be primarily serious or will humor be part of your vows. Will your vows include any personal stories. Agreeing on a format will prevent any awkward moments when one person presents a heartfelt vow and then the other roasts them with humor. We recommend that you stay away from inside jokes and suggestive humor. That often leaves your friends and family confused when they are not “in on the joke” or wondering what they missed.

Make sure you are making vows. A vow by its definition is “a solemn promise” – A commitment that is deeply spiritual. Often vows are confused by love letters. While you can certainly do what you want – this is your wedding – your vows generally are what you promise you will do for this person as you marry them.

Some vows require a short story such as how you met or how this person has changed you. A powerful way to end your story is to tie your vows to that story in the end.

Try to make sure your vows are achievable. “I vow to treat you like a queen on bended knee - every day for the rest of your life.” You know that you probably won’t do that. Your vows can be anything you want. It can be as small as foot massages on their worst days to keeping Christ the center of your relationship. Just consider the vow and make sure its achievable and real.

Read aloud and time it a few times. If it is supposed to be funny – allow for pausing and laughing by audience. Read them to a friend. If you can find a member of the family or a friend that knows you both, read it to them. They can judge if you are both well matched and sound good together. They can be honest with each of you if one is too long or too short or more sentimental, etc. There is no reason to memorize your vows. You do not need to be rehearsed or a public speaker. But reading it out loud several times will assure that you will not have any tongue twisters on your wedding day.

Tips on Writing Your Love Letter

Letters are another wonderful experience for couples. We highly recommend that either vows or letters be written before the big day, so you have time to calmly write your thoughts and use your best handwriting. iPhone vows aren't the prettiest. Vow books are beautiful and are wonderful keepsakes. They present well in both photos and video.

Decide on the structure of your letters. Decide on the length of your letter. Two to four minutes read aloud is a good length of time in general. Just like in vows, you want to decide on the number of points, the type of format you want whether serious or humorous, etc.

Typically love letters are read privately and this does allow for you to have a bit more creative freedom on length and style. You don't have to worry as much about one person reading inside jokes and the other a heartfelt message. But here are some questions that you can think about while writing your letter:

- When did you know they were the one?
- Relationship recap. Special moments? Hard times? Good times?
- What do you love about them?
- What are you looking forward to the most on your wedding day?
- What made you a better person?
- Where do you see yourself with them in the future? Kids? Traveling? Growing old together?

In general:

Don't worry about something being poetic. The most powerful vows are the ones that are just authentic and are spoken from the heart.

Lastly, decide where you want to read your vows. Do you want to read them prior to the wedding: During the wedding? Read them during first look? Read them before the wedding but without a first look (around the corner)?

We are always here if you have any questions!