



WRITING SAMPLE

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Make your dining room the centerpiece of the holidays

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As the holidays approach, our thoughts turn to family, friends and food. As our guest lists grow, we start planning the gastronomical delights we'll concoct in honor of the season. And for these special meals, we're happy to have a room — the dining room — whose only purpose is to serve as the center of the food, laughter and love that characterize holiday gatherings. We're glad of a place set aside just for these pleasures, where TV and other distractions are absent.

Make your formal dining room spectacular this holiday season with these tips for setting a table that sets the stage for a gathering your guests won't forget.

Start with the centerpiece

Nothing attracts attention like a breathtaking centerpiece. Glass containers overflowing with seasonal filler, candles in elegant holders, fresh-picked flowers, lifelike artificial greenery, bowls of seasonal fruits and vegetables — any of these can be combined for a look as intricate or simple as fits your style.

The most important component? You. Whatever you put together, make sure it feels like you, like home, like family.

Pull out the good stuff

They're probably relegated to the most-difficult-to-reach part of the cupboard for most of the year, but now's the time to dust off those spectacular plates and bowls you received as wedding gifts and wow your visiting friends and family. You might also unearth that beautiful silverware great-grandma Ethel left to you. You know, the forks and knives that are actually made of silver? Nothing adds a sumptuous feel like real china and silverware that shines.

Most importantly, when you add these beautiful bits to your tablescape, your friends and family will feel the love and tradition that emanates from these special pieces.

Pay attention to the details

Consider enhancing your place settings with chargers, a simple and affordable way to add elegance to your table. Sometimes called service plates, chargers are oversized plates that provide a dazzling backdrop to your plates and bowls. As courses come and go, the charger remains, providing a constant opulence to the table.

Napkins and napkin rings are another simple way to add elegance and formality to your dining room. Choose sumptuous fabrics and rings that gleam to dazzle and impress guests.

Mix and match

Consider picking up a few complementary serving bowls and platters to scatter in among your everyday ware. Today's formal doesn't have to mean matchy-matchy. It means a little elegance with a little down-to-earth and pieces that "go" together without going together. It means comfortable refinement that's welcoming to all.

Need more ideas? Head over to [Breed & Co.](#), the hardware store that's so much more, where their expert table-design consultants will be happy help you put together a breathtaking tablescape that will fit your style precisely.