



## WRITING SAMPLE

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### Your 2018 Secret Santa Gift Guide

By Gretchen Heber

It's undeniably the most wonderful time of the year, but the pressure to [select the right gift](#) for each of the loved ones on your list can add a burdensome twist to the season. But it doesn't have to be a chore — [shopping for friends and family](#) can actually be fun.

We'll look at some of the personas you might be shopping for this year, and offer some suggestions for presents that will make their hearts sing come Christmas morning.

#### **Tio Alfredo**

Let's face it. Uncle Fred's been on the planet for 72 years, gathering many, many "things" along the way. What could you possibly get him that he doesn't already have?

How about a [Big Green Egg](#)? You know Alfredo prides himself on his grill skills — with a Big Green Egg in the backyard, Fred's steaks will go from tasty to absolutely mouthwatering. This highly insulated, ceramic cooker enables high-temperature "steak house" grilling, not to mention the ability to roast, smoke and bake.

#### **Grandma Norma**

Everyone loves Grandma Norma and wants to treat her well at holiday time. But again, she's been around a while and always says, "Oh, I don't need a thing!"

So how about a [beautiful picture frame](#) with a lovely photo of her adorable grandchildren? Nothing will bring on the tears of gratitude faster than pictures of the grandbabies. And there are [so many sizes, shapes and styles of frames](#) to choose from these days, you're sure to find something that fits in with Grandma's eclectic style.

#### **Pop**

What dad hasn't longed for one of those [big tool chests](#) the handymen on TV always have? The one with all the shallow drawers perfect for storing screwdrivers and wrenches, and the deeper drawers for hammers and power tools? You've called on him time and again to make this repair or that — consider getting him a deluxe cabinet to [store all his tools](#).

#### **Mom**

She may not like to cook much (thank goodness for Uncle Fred), but Mom does like to set a pretty table. Why not treat her to a few [lovely serving pieces](#)? Bowls of all shapes and sizes, elegant platters, maybe a new set of salt and pepper shakers — there are so many ways to spice up the table, even if the food is, lamentably, a bit bland.

**Your best girlfriend**

Your high-style friend Belinda just can't have enough [fragrant candles](#). She's got them all over the house — so why not find a candle that not only smells divine, but also makes a design statement? With nearly as [many candle choices](#) as grains of sand at Port Aransas, it'll be a cinch to find the right one for your gal pal.

**Your best guy friend**

Gabe's the one who's always ready and willing for a Friday night game of darts. Show him how much you appreciate his friendship with a [Yeti tumbler](#). Durable, heavily insulated and definitely desirable, these man's-man beverage holders will remind Gabe of that extraordinary fishing trip the two of you took during college — something to reminisce about when he's stuck on MoPac, heading to work.

*For help making your final gift selections, visit [Breed & Co.](#), the hardware store that's so much more. The friendly gift experts at this Austin institution will help you cross off all the names on your holiday list!*