

HOW TO DATE

A guide to obtaining and maintaining the perfect relationship

Some say high school is the best four years of your life and the relationships you have with people during these four years can make or break it, especially relationships of the romantic sort. Acquiring a romantic relationship can be hard and keeping it going can be even harder, but lucky for you, there are many techniques that can be used to both obtain and maintain a relationship in high school.

First things first: Snapchat. Snapchat, being the greatest resource for potential relationships, is where all relationships begin. Snapchat helps to establish closeness by letting you know your potential partner's location at all times via Snap Maps. Snap Maps is an incredible resource and should be used even after a relationship manifests outside of the phone screen to assist in catching your partner in lies. Before that point, however, the relationship **MUST** remain within Snapchat until an official title is assigned to your partnership. Acknowledging the presence of a mutual crush in person before making it official has great potential to ruin the formation of a relationship.

Once a title has been assigned to the relationship, making it public is a must. Everyone must know that you and your partner are dating. One way to make sure everyone knows about your relationship is to post on social media with your partner. However, posting too seldom with your partner could cause your relationship to be misinterpreted by others. To avoid being perceived as "just friends," posting at least once a day on multiple social media platforms is highly encouraged. Another way to publicize your relationship is through displaying affection in every public situation. Below is a chart to help guide how much affection should occur in different situations, but a general rule of thumb is to increase the amount of affection with the amount of people present.

Now that your relationship has been made public, it's time to focus on the relationship at the personal level. Your significant other is the most important person in your life and should be treated as such, even if at the expense of other people in your life. Relationships are all about sacrifices and to prevent jealousy, you may need to distance yourself from your friends and avoid any contact with persons who may be perceived as threats by your partner. This helps to establish trust by conveying to your significant other how much you love them and that they are your number one. You may also need to set aside any other obligations you may have. This includes work, school, sports and any other activities that may take away time that you could be spending with your partner.

While these tips are helpful, the most important thing to remember when dating in high school is to have high expectations of each other and the outcome of your relationship. Expect nothing but perfection from your partner and do not entertain the possibility of the relationship ending. After all, the future can be scary, so planning yours around your significant other can help make adulthood seem less daunting.

