



Handout 1 - The Mixtape

In “Wear Your Heart on Your Sleeves: The Lost Art of the Mix Tape,” the *Observer’s* Sean O’Hagan states, “If a cherished music collection contains, on one level, a sketchy map of the human heart, a mix tape is a smaller, more intimate map, and a kind of diary of where you once were, and even who you once were...Compiling a mixtape takes a rare combination of skills, including instinct, knowledge, patience...good taste and more than anything else, time.” Many have equated the mixtape and the love letter.

The image shows a blank Maxell UR cassette J-card. At the top, it says "maxell UR" and "POSITION IEC TYPE I • NORMAL". Below this, there are two columns labeled "A" and "B". Each column has a header with "DATE" and "N.R." (Not Recorded) and radio buttons for "YES" and "NO". The rest of the card is a grid of lines for writing track information.

You are tasked with compiling a mix tape following these steps:

1. Decide who the tape is for. It should be for someone who means a lot to you. A friend? A family member? A love interest? Write your answer here:
2. Decide the emotion you’d like to convey with this tape. Is it a party tape? A dark, brooding tape? Does it convey love, longing or loss? Write your answer here:
3. Does this tape have a theme? Songs that start with “Z”? Songs about food? “My favorite ‘80s jams”? Write your answer here:
4. Decide where this tape will be played most often. Privately or publically? In a bedroom or a living room or a car? Somewhere else? Write your answer here:
5. Brainstorm eight to ten songs that will fit on your tape (remember, you’ll break them up across two sides). Write the songs on a separate piece of paper.
6. Take all of the information from steps 1-5 and fill in the blank cassette J-card below. Remember, be colorful, and add artwork and personality; the look is important, especially if you’re trying to impress someone!