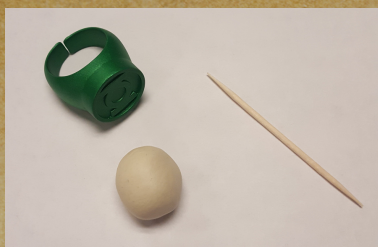


# Make a Wax Seal Ring



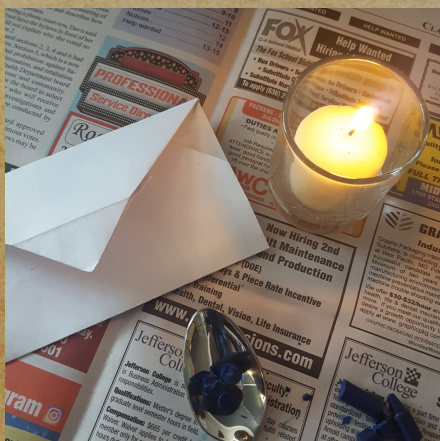
## SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- air dry clay
- plastic ring (to support your stamp)
- glue dots or other adhesive
- toothpick
- crayons or wax
- old metal spoon
- candle with matches
- letter/paper
- vegetable oil



## PART I: MAKE YOUR WAX SEAL STAMP

1. Take your round ball of clay and make a flat circular disc the size of a nickel with it. (You want it to be small enough to fit on the top of your ring.)
2. Using your toothpick, etch a design into the clay. This will be the emblem on your seal. If you want your seal to be raised when finished, you'll need to carve out of your stamp (as the picture above). If you want to indent the seal, you will want to build up on the clay.
3. When finished, let the clay completely dry for 24 hours.
4. Once it has hardened, using your glue dots or other adhesive (like hot glue) attach the clay to the plastic ring. (You might find hot glue or a stronger adhesive helps.)



## PART II: USE YOUR WAX SEAL

1. Take your crayon or wax and break it up into small pieces to melt. Be sure the crayon paper wrapper has been removed.
2. Prepare your clay seal by dipping it in vegetable oil. (The clay is porous, so the oil helps the wax stick to the paper rather than the clay stamp.)
3. Place 2-3 pieces of the crayon or wax onto the spoon. (Do not use a kitchen spoon. Use an old spoon that will just be used from now on as a wax seal spoon only.)
4. Light a candle and hold the spoon over the candle, using a toothpick to stir the wax until it is melted.
5. Once completely melted, carefully pour the hot wax onto the envelope where it seals.
6. Let the wax sit and cool for about 20-30 seconds. (You don't want it to be completely solid and dry, but you also don't want it completely liquid and melted.)
7. Gently set the seal on top of the wax, letting it sit for at least 10 seconds before removing. This should create your wax seal.





### ADVICE FROM TEEN LIBRARIAN SHANON

- While the steps for this process are easy, I definitely advise practicing your technique a few times before using it on a real letter to a friend.
- The times in the instructions are mere suggestions that worked "okay" for me when making my seals. You might want to play around with how much time you let the wax dry before applying the stamp. You might want to test if you should leave the ring on there longer or shorter to make a clearer design from your stamp. This exploration is part of the fun and what makes each seal unique in the end.
- If for some reason your wax sticks to the stamp instead of the envelope, don't worry. Just scrape the wax off of the clay using a toothpick. (This might have happened to me in test trials.) If you are careful, you can also scrape off wax from the envelope. This wax can be reused and melted to try again.
- If the wax does stick, make sure you dip your clay in the oil before your next attempt.
- Warning: the wax does bleed a bit, so if your envelope paper is thin, be sure that your letter is wrapped in an extra layer of paper so that it doesn't get oil on it.



*Make a Wax Seal Ring*

