Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or another holiday, chances are you want to get the special people in your life a gift in celebration of the holiday season. I don’t think I’m alone when I say that I’m tired of receiving cheap socks and lotion. (No offense to the people who actually enjoy getting those things.) Here are some gift ideas that I hope make holiday shopping a little easier on you, featuring some items from The Panther Shop.

1. If you’re someone with a family who loves to talk about you when you’re away at college, why not gift them with some Panther gear? The Panther Shop has a lot of items to choose from: hats, T-shirts, keychains, car decals, and more. And if you’re on a sports team, grab some items that showcase your sport. That way, your loved ones can show their support for your team, whether they’re on the sidelines watching or sending their best wishes from home.

2. If you don’t want to bombard your family and friends with a bunch of blue and gold Panther Pride gifts, an alternative for clothing is 6 Dollar Shirts. On the website (6dollarshirts.com), you can find a wide range of apparel for prices that can’t be beat. There are so many themes to choose from, so you’re bound to find something for everyone: dog lovers, video gamers, history buffs, and so on.
If you can’t decide on a gift for someone, a bundle composed of a bunch of the person’s small favorites should do the trick. It’s a simple gift to put together and it’s pretty fun to fill up one large item with a bunch of smaller things that you know the "giftee" will enjoy.

Tumblers are another great gift because they are functional! You could also pick out a cool bowl, mug, or water bottle. Don’t forget to fill it with goodies like their favorite candy, cookies, or even school supplies. I know I go through a ton of highlighters in a semester. This oversized mug from The Panther Shop is great because it has multiple uses: coffee/tea, ramen, and other microwave-friendly snacks.

Don’t overlook simple gifts too. There’s nothing wrong with gift cards, and it’s a top choice for a lot of people because they can use them on what they really know they need. For any of your friends on campus, pick up a Metz gift card. We all have that one friend who runs out of FLEX within the first month of school. For anyone at home, purchase a gift card for his or her favorite store or restaurant.
Some of the best gifts are homemade. Something I made for myself before coming to school could just as easily be used in your friend’s dorm, your grandparents’ living room, or your family’s foyer. This was a $3 bulletin board I found at Goodwill. I painted the edges black and hot glued three pieces of jute to the frame. Now, I can easily hang photos from the decorative mini binder clips I found at Target.

My final word of advice to anyone struggling to pick out a nice gift is sometimes you don’t have to get a keepsake gift at all! If you’re anything like me, you’d rather have an experience to share with your friends, family, or significant other. Some examples are going out to eat at a new cafe, window shopping on a trendy strip, or going to see a show at your local theater. Experiences that The Panther Shop can help you with are painting by picking up small canvases and paint, or trying out henna, which they have in stock.

Happy Holidays!