

## Wheel Thrown Mugs Instructions

**Important Note: You must keep your project moist by properly wrapping it every day!**

### Before you Begin:

1. Sketch your design in your journal. You will come up with 4 different ideas and sketch them under “**Drawings of Proposed Projects Here**”. Your drawings must also be extremely detailed. Your design must be approved and signed off with me before you get clay.
2. You must create 3 practice mugs and get them signed off with me. Before a mug can be signed off you must write 3 sentences about what turned out well and what you might change. Follow the steps below to create a wheel thrown mug.

### How to Make your Wheel Thrown Bowl:

1. Measure 1 pound of clay. Roll it into a sphere. Make sure you do not over work the clay or the clay will become dry and crack.
2. Push your thumb in the center of the clay. Make sure you leave about ¼ inch at the bottom. Do not go all the way through the clay. If this happens start over.
3. **Step 1 Wedging:** Wedging clay is kind of like needing dough. Repeatedly push the clay into itself to remove any air bubbles. There are different ways to wedge clay such as the “ram” or “seashell” method.
4. **Step 2 Centering:** Slam the clay in the center of the wheel. Wet the clay and your hands. Place one hand on the top and one hand on the side of the clay. Release pressure slowly when removing hands to get more water. Check centering with a tool or finger.
5. **Step 3 Opening the Clay:** Push both hands simultaneously into the center of the ball of clay to create a hole. Leave about ½ inch at the bottom.
6. **Step 4 Raising the Walls:** Pulling clay is the method you use to raise the sides. Reach into the opening with your left hand, and support the outside of the clay with your right hand. In a controlled motion, pull the clay up. Pulling determines the height and shape of your pot.
7. **Step 5 Finishing the Lips:** The lip can be the most important part of a piece. Use your right index finger to shape the edge while supporting it with your left hand. Smooth with a sponge.
8. **Step 6 Removing the Bowl from the Wheel:** Hold the wire firmly with both hands. Press the wire absolutely flush against the wheel head and pull toward you. Keep your elbows and wrist parallel to the pottery wheel. Place on a flat surface. Bowls 1-3 cut in half and fill out the signature form.
9. Cleaning the wheel takes a long time. Start cleaning the wheel 20 minutes before the bell rings. Use the large sponges from the sink and wipe the wheel and splash pan completely. Clean it better than you found it. Any scraps of clay must be swept from the floor. Place all plastic clay back in the bags at the clay station. Wash all tools and place them where they belong. Get your wheel checked off with Ms. Hunter.
10. Mugs number 4-6: Place your **first and last name along with the class period on the bottom.** For example, Lisa Hunter P. 1. You will be trimming this off, but in the meantime it needs to be labeled.

### **Trimming your Wheel Thrown Bowl:**

11. Once your mug is thrown (4-6) on the wheel let it become leather-hard.
12. Grab a small amount of clay, a sponge, needle tool, medium trimming tool, and water.
13. Center your mug on the wheel head using the needle tool method. Place small amounts of clay on the sides to secure it into place. Be sure not to move the bowl once it is centered.
14. Trim the foot to an appropriate size. Smooth out any rough edges. Place your **first and last name along with the class period on the bottom**. For example, Lisa Hunter P. 1.
15. Create your handle. Each mug needs to have a different handle to include coil, slab, and pulled.
16. Attach your handle to your mug and smooth out any imperfections. Do this after the mug has been trimmed.
17. You must check with me before it can be placed on the greenware shelf. This is where you receive your greenware grade.
18. Ensure that your **first and last name along with the class period is on the bottom** and place it on the greenware shelf. This is one of the most important steps as mugs look alike. Do not handle your mugs once you have placed them on the greenware shelf. Clay is very fragile at this stage and will break easily.

### **Glazing your Wheel Thrown Mugs:**

1. Once your mug has been bisque fired it will be placed back on your shelf. It will now be bright white. You will paint a small layer of wax resist on the foot. Be careful not to get wax resist anywhere it is not wanted. It does not wash off your pinch pot. Let the wax resist dry before glazing.
2. You will then decide which glaze and glazing method you would like to use. Stir the glaze thoroughly.
3. Use the dipping tongs provided. Dip your mug into the glaze for roughly 3 seconds. If your glaze is too thick it will run during the firing.
4. Wash off any unwanted glaze on the bottom with a sponge and place on the glaze shelf.
5. Your project **must** be graded before it can be taken home!