

Do you leave voicemail on others' phones? Are there particular people you feel comfortable sending voicemail?: I do, from time to time, leave voicemail on peoples' phones. Usually I only do this with my closest friends and my family, from time to time I do it as a part of a professional correspondence.

After calling an unanswered phone, what determines whether you leave a voicemail?: A number of factors contribute to the making of that decision including but not necessarily limited to: the degree of formality of the call (voicemail being both MORE formal in a professional setting and an opportunity for informal joking in a friendly setting); the urgency of the message/issue that I was calling to communicate/discuss; how creative and/or funny I'm feeling in the given moment; the level of intimacy I have with the individual in question; if the call was planned the amount of time that has transpired since the date on which the call was originally MEANT to be placed.

When compared to other forms of communication (letters, text, email, etc), does voicemail strike you as antiquated? Why/why not?: It strikes me as personal, not antiquated. Indeed, it seems to me that the concept of leaving a recorded audio message for someone to listen to at their convenience is more new-fangled (as it were) than the concept of leaving a written message--in their most basic forms the former requires greater technological advancement than the latter. True, we have discovered new highly technologically advanced ways of communicating textual messages, but I'd submit to the reader of this form (*imagine here that I am making a conspicuous and overblown amount of eye-contact with you, the reader*) that the technological advancement does not concern the form of the message, but rather the means of its dispersal.

Do you have any particular association with receiving voicemail?: Positive/sentimental. Often I'll save voicemail I've been left by close friends and family in the hopes that they may provide me with some comfort in lonely or trying times.

Are there ever circumstances where you would prefer voicemail?: Any circumstance wherein I'm trying to foster a deeper and more intimate connection with the recipient/wherein I feel comfortable being vulnerable around the recipient--for some reason voicemails seem vulnerable, they seem like a declaration of affection, which, I believe, is a de facto vulnerable act

Have you ever received a meaningful voicemail? And if so, what made it meaningful?: I have received many meaningful voicemail messages! In fact, I have one friend in particular who prefers to leave me voicemail messages on certain occasions (e.g. birthdays or other events of personal note) so that he can articulate his thoughts (which are, invariably--heartbreakingly--beautifully, positive, loving, and supportive). I cherish each of these to the highest degree.