Chapter 1: 3 Steps to Tackling Your Personal Essay | The Vandy Admissions Blog | Vanderbilt University

Written and reviewed by current college students and recent graduates, this book helps students through the process of writing their first college paper. It offers practical suggestions on getting started, selecting an original topic, formulating a clear thesis, writing strong drafts, and editing drafts to present a final paper.

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Chapter 2: 25 Tips to Help You Survive and Thrive Your Freshman Year | LiveCareer

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

No Comments When faced with the task of writing your first ever university paper, there are some key differences between high school and university level essay writing that should be taken into account. Moreover, it may be useful to examine several college essay examples as a way of preparing for university level essay writing. How College Essays Differ from High School Typically, high school students are taught to follow a fairly rigid and formulaic form of essay writing known colloquially as the sandwich method. The sandwich method essentially states that your essay should consist of a one paragraph lead or intro, followed by three to four paragraphs of body text, each representing a distinct argument, and finally a conclusion that summarizes all of the points in the essay. While this template is not necessarily wrong, what new university students will typically discover, especially when entering an arts program with a heavy emphasis on writing, is that essays are much more free form and varied in nature. The end goal with essay writing in university is to be able to successfully articulate your points in a lucid and convincing fashion. Given the wide array of topics that you might be covering, it becomes apparent that while one template may be appropriate for a class on comparative literature, you would be be better served following a different structure when writing a paper on Canadian history or contemporary media theory. Moreover, there is a uniformity to the sandwich method taught in high school that can often be misleading. While the sandwich method would have you write three paragraphs of similar length to make up the argumentative section of the paper, in reality more flexibility is required when formulating a successful paper. One argument in your paper might involve a fairly complex idea that requires you to break it down into smaller pieces in order to communicate it effectively to the reader. Meanwhile, an equally valid argument might be more straight forward and would be more salient if written plainly in your paper with just a few lines. Apart from conceptual differences between high school and university writing, another major difference that you have to adapt to is the use of fixed writing styles. The best way to become accustomed to these styles is to consult official writing manuals that are available both online and in every campus bookstore. How to Find Good College Essay Examples Study Academic Journals One of the best ways to get a gage on the type of writing that would be required of you in university is by doing the various readings that you are assigned in your first year courses. Although the wording in academic journals might initially appear intimidating, the point is not to imitate the vocabulary of the authors you are reading. In fact, doing so might make your papers appear pretentious, or give the impression that you do not understand what you are writing and are trying to impress the reader with flowery language. Instead the goal of carefully reading academic writing should be to gain a firm grasp on syntax and understand how academics formulate their arguments and express their ideas. Visit Credible Sites Most universities have extensive libraries of online and offline resources available to help student learn the craft of writing and to improve their essay skills. As a tuition paying student you should take advantage of the bulk of resources you have at your disposal from credible academic sources. Some universities even offer in-depth comprehensive guides to writing completely free of charge to the public through websites, such as the Harvard College Writing Center. Just be wary of dubious websites with questionable credentials, or sites that offer writing services for a fee. Most often these services are created to sucker students out of money and offer little in terms of actual educational value. Consult with Older Students and High Performers Another useful strategy would be to reach out to upper year students who are already seasoned university level essay writers and have clear understanding of what is too be expected from academic papers. That said it would be best to approach the students who are high achievers and are generally well regarded for their writing abilities, as they would more likely be more capable and willing to help out. There are many students in university that scrape by with sloppy writing, thus it is better to consult someone who cares about the craft as they will be more effective in giving you pointers. Moving Past Examples of College Essays Reaching out to Teaching Assistants and

Professors Yet perhaps the single best resources that you might have at your disposal in university are your professors and their teaching assistants. As these individuals have either completed, or are in the process of completing graduate school, they have proven their competency with high level academic writing. In my experience during the first couple of months as a freshman at Western University, I initially noticed a considerable drop in my marks. While in high school I was accustomed to receiving eighties and nineties in many of my writing assignments, my first semester of university started off with a couple of sixties and one essay assignment that I barely passed. After spending a considerable amount of time going to the office hours of my teaching assistants and professors, not only did my marks subsequently rise, but the quality of writing that I produced dramatically improved after my first year of university.

Chapter 3: How to Read in College

Tackling Your First College Paper (Students Helping Students series) by Scott Grinsell. Natavi Guides. Paperback. GOOD. Spine creases, wear to binding and pages from reading.

Consider the following general suggestions for planning and creating writing assignments that work well: Writing assignments can be developed for different purposes: Writing to Learn Whether considering writing in the classroom for a writing course, a First Year Seminar, or a content-area course, it is important to understand how course content can actually be understood and secured through writing to learn. In this mode, students write in order to discover, examine, and test their ideas about reading assignments, class discussions, lectures, and essay topics. Such writing is usually informal, can take a variety of forms, and represents the kind of active thinking and critical engagement with course material that helps students prepare for more formal writing tasks. Writing to learn becomes a vehicle for figuring out and refining what we think before we communicate publicly to others. Ideas for using writing to learn in the classroom: List as many facts as you can think of about the writer based on what is found in the reading: Such a commonplace book will help improve memory of course topics and serve as a helpful resource for review. Short, quick summaries of assigned readings could be asked for first, then short syntheses of ideas in several connected readings, and finally analyses of the quality of an argument or string of related ideas. As micro themes grow in number and difficulty, topics for more formal assignments like critical analysis might emerge and signal productive directions for both teacher and student. These short freewrites can then be discussed or the class can move ahead. Either way, freewriting will allow students to focus closely on a topic. Share these ideas in class discussion, analyzing the strengths and weaknesses and relevance in terms of the assignment. Start freewriting on a possible direction for the assignment and stop after three minutes, then: Each time the student freewrites, in other words, the original idea becomes more and more focused - the students draws closer to the "center of gravity" for the actual writing assignment and have something to start with for a draft. Such a discovery draft will then allow the student to build on early ideas as a more complete draft is written. Writing to Communicate When writing to communicate, students move from their informal and more discovery-based writing to more formal, demanding and public expectations of particular discourse and rhetorical conventions. Learning the conventions for specific fields of study, developing different methods for analysis and argument, as well as fine tuning the details of grammar, documentation and mechanics are central to the mode of writing as communication. At their most effective, assignments in writing to communicate can be built directly off the scaffolding that has been provided through writing to learn. The two modes of writing are connected in terms of developing content, but writing to communicate will call for more coherent development and structure. Students can be asked to review everything they have written informally through writing to learn in order to determine a focus or direction for their more formal assignments in public communication. They may find an initial thesis for a specific topic emerging through their ideas for using writing to communicate in the classroom. Do you want students to develop analytical, informational, argumentative, reflective, or expressive skills, or a combination of several skills? The essay instructions should make clear to students what set of skills will be most valued when completing the assignment. Analysis is the skill underpinning all others. To write well from an informational, argumentative, or expressive perspective, in other words, students need to use their analytical ability to focus their writing. A sense of purpose will connect to developing a central idea or thesis. Knowing what kind of writing is expected of them informational? After reading, class discussion, and writing to learn, students will be more able to decide what they want to say and thus have a starting point. A set of essay instructions can ask students to follow through on these kinds of review and explorations to arrive at a working central idea. Students can be encouraged to begin with a working central idea in order to develop a preliminary draft. Ideas might be roughly sketched out to begin with using the following seed sentences as frames: Seed sentences can help students get started writing and can then be further refined later in the process of writing. Working with seed sentences might also be a productive approach to writing to learn. Are they to be thinking of the teacher exclusively when completing the assignment? Should they be thinking

of a general educated audience, or an audience only of their peers? Should they be thinking of the audience as completely or partially informed about the subject? Will the audience hold values similar to or different from the writer? How much will the audience identify with the subject and topic under study? Such considerations will help determine the form and style choices that can be made and are central to the writing task. Once the purpose, central idea, and audience have been established as part of the assignment, consider providing students additional advice on the STRUCTURE of their writing. They might bear in mind these structural possibilities: The writing situation considers a problem to which the student is proposing a solution. Students can be asked to consider the costs and benefits of the solution proposed. Finally, an assignment can also be accompanied by a MODEL that illustrates the expectation for writing. Successful assignments can be saved and copied for such purposes in future classes. The following handouts provide examples of essay assignments that stress various purposes, sense of audience, and structural ideas:

Chapter 4: 10 topics to avoid in a college admission essay - CBS News

When faced with the task of writing your first ever university paper, there are some key differences between high school and university level essay writing that should be taken into account. Moreover, it may be useful to examine several college essay examples as a way of preparing for university level essay writing.

Class of Below you will find the Class of essay prompts for the Common App and Coalition App as well as specific colleges. Scroll down to see the specific college supplemental essay prompts. We will add more college essay prompts as they are released. If this sounds like you, then please share your story. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome? It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma â€" anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more? Share an essay on any topic of your choice. Coalition Application Essays Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it. Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution. How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs? What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend assuming they would listen to you? Submit an essay on a topic of your choice. Babson College Please briefly elaborate on one of your extracurricular activities or work experiences max. Your moment has arrived. Share with us the moments or experiences that have led you to apply to Babson College words maximum. We invite you to submit your answer in either essay OR video format. If you choose to submit a video, please limit your response to a 1-minute video, which can be submitted via a shared link to YouTube or another video hosting website. Boston College words Choose one Great art evokes a sense of wonder. It nourishes the mind and spirit. Is there a particular song, poem, speech, or novel from which you have drawn insight or inspiration? When you choose a college, you will join a new community of people who have different backgrounds, experiences, and stories. Boston College strives to provide an undergraduate learning experience emphasizing the liberal arts, quality teaching, personal formation, and engagement of critical issues. If you had the opportunity to create your own college course, what enduring question or contemporary problem would you address and why? Jesuit education considers the liberal arts a pathway to intellectual growth and character formation. What beliefs and values inform your decisions and actions today, and how will Boston College assist you in becoming a person who thinks and acts for the common good? What about being a student at Boston University most excites you? You may share with us a skill or concept that you found challenging and rewarding to learn, or any experiences beyond course work that may have broadened your interest. These can be physical places where you have lived, or a community or group that is important to you. You must respond to only 4 of the 8 questions. Each response is limited to a maximum of words. Which questions you choose to answer is entirely up to you: But you should select questions that are most relevant to your experience and that best reflect your individual circumstances All questions are equal: All are given equal consideration in the application review process, which means there is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing certain questions over others. There is no right or wrong way to answer these questions: Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time. A leadership role can mean more than just a title. It can mean being a mentor to others, acting as the person in charge of a specific task, or taking the lead role in organizing an event or project. Think about what you accomplished and what you learned from the experience. What were your responsibilities? Did you lead a team? How did your experience change your perspective on leading others?

Did you help to resolve an important dispute at your school, church, in your community or an organization? For example, do you help out or take care of your family? Every person has a creative side, and it can be expressed in many ways: Describe how you express your creative side. What does creativity mean to you? Do you have a creative skill that is important to you? What have you been able to do with that skill? If you used creativity to solve a problem, what was your solution? What are the steps you took to solve the problem? How does your creativity influence your decisions inside or outside the classroom? Does your creativity relate to your major or a future career? What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time? Why is this talent or skill meaningful to you? Does the talent come naturally or have you worked hard to develop this skill or talent? Does your talent or skill allow you opportunities in or outside the classroom? If so, what are they and how do they fit into your schedule? Describe how you have taken advantage of a significant educational opportunity or worked to overcome an educational barrier you have faced. An educational opportunity can be anything that has added value to your educational experience and better prepared you for college. What personal characteristics or skills did you call on to overcome this challenge? How did overcoming this barrier help shape who are you today? Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement? A challenge could be personal, or something you have faced in your community or school. Why was the challenge significant to you? Did you have support from someone else or did you handle it alone? If that applies to you, what have you done to further that interest? Have you been able to pursue coursework at a higher level in this subject honors, AP, IB, college or university work? Are you inspired to pursue this subject further at UC, and how might you do that? What have you done to make your school or your community a better place? You can define community as you see fit, just make sure you talk about your role in that community. Was there a problem that you wanted to fix in your community? Why were you inspired to act? What did you learn from your effort? How did your actions benefit others, the wider community or both? Did you work alone or with others to initiate change in your community? Beyond what has already been shared in your application, what do you believe makes you stand out as a strong candidate for admissions to the University of California? What have you not shared with us that will highlight a skill, talent, challenge or opportunity that you think will help us know you better? From your point of view, what do you feel makes you an excellent choice for UC? Knowing this, what do you hope to explore, innovate, or create with your Caltech peers? Your response should range between words. Caltech students are often known for their sense of humor and creative pranks. What do you like to do for fun? The process of discovery best advances when people from various backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives come together. Given the students, faculty, staff and resources that have been available to you as a student, how have you collaborated with others, in or out of the classroom?

Chapter 5 : Popular Application Essay Topics | Apply | The Princeton Review

Tackling the College Paper Tips on Getting It Done-and Getting the A (Students Helping Students) Published August 2, by Prentice Hall Press.

If you have never experienced this phenomenon, you will likely have your first encounter as you begin to compose your personal statement for college. In this post, I give you some food for thought in the form of three tips to help you compose a statement that is uniquely you. When I present information sessions for prospective students, I offer myself up as topic of choice: See my next point. For a moment, remove all barriers and formalities: Your task is to re-create the moment you are writing about and get it on paper. Revise like a madman or madwoman. Let it simmer overnight at least. Give your mind a break. This allows you to come back to your writing with a clear mind and fresh set of eyes. In fact, you will be rewording, rephrasing, adding thoughts, removing unnecessary details to the point that your essay looks nothing like your first draft. The essay you started about me and my lame jokes has morphed into an essay about your college trip to Vanderbilt, or your relationship with your parents, or something else entirely. I am glad that I no longer make a cameo in your essay. This is the most difficult tip I provide. In my career in admissions, often I have noticed how some students struggle to communicate their feelings on paper. A personal statement is insight into who you are. As an admissions officer, I am helping the admissions committee craft a first-year community. Sure, I learn about you through your letters of recommendation, but I always look forward to hearing what you have to say for yourself. Seasoned admissions officers know what a mission trip is, what it feels like to tear your ACL, or even how awesome grandma is because all grandmas are awesome! What I am trying to learn about is you. You are an interesting individual â€" the way you see the world, the style in which you describe it â€" this all makes for a diverse community on campus. The challenge here is that you have to communicate this to someone who does not know you. To aid you with this challenge, solicit a trusted friend, buddy, mentor, or teacher to help you communicate you on paper. I was lucky in my senior year of high school, I had an English teacher who took it upon herself to help me craft my own writing style and voice. At one point, she shared with me a perspective that changed my perspective on writing: I could just be me. Bonneville has since passed, but I will never forget her for what she did for me â€" she encouraged me to share my perspective and helped me find my style and manner. Whether or not you have a teacher like Mrs. Bonneville in your life, you can still learn from her advice to me: Be yourself in your writing so that the reader can truly understand what makes you, you. Sometimes all it takes is someone else who knows you to see what value you bring to a community and prod you to showcase that value through your own voice. As you begin or continue to write for college, remember that your personal essay is your best opportunity to put your personality into your application. While there are many other pieces we are considering in your application, the personal essay is truly the only piece where you have complete control over what you say and how you say it. You have to start somewhere, so just start writing, revise like crazy, and get an outside opinion so that your essay can show us who you really are.

Chapter 6: blog.quintoapp.com: College Essay Help 24/7

Whether you're prepared or not, there comes a time when every student is faced with writing their first college essay. Even if you're a natural writer, writing a college essay is still a daunting task. Here's a method for tackling the process and a few examples to inspire you. Your writing, at.

The college essay is your opportunity to show admissions officers who you are apart from your grades and test scores and to distinguish yourself from the rest of a very talented applicant pool. If you are using the Common App to apply for college admission in , you will have â€" words to respond to ONE of the following prompts: Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome? It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemmaâ€"anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more? Share an essay on any topic of your choice. Admissions officers want to feel connected to you and an honest, personal statement about who you are draws them in. Your love of superheroes, baking chops, or family history are all fair game if you can tie it back to who you are or what you believe in. Avoid a rehash of the accomplishments on your high school resume and choose something that the admissions committee will not discover when reading the rest of your application. But overcoming challenges demonstrates courage, grit, and perseverance! The obstacle you write about can be large or small, but you must show the admissions committee how your perspective changed as a result. Your answer to this question could focus on a time you stood up to others or an experience when your own preconceived view was challenged. Choose this prompt if you have a relevantâ€"and specific! This essay is designed to get at the heart of how you think and what makes you tick. Present a situation or quandary and show steps toward the solution. Admissions officers want insight into your thought process and the issues you grapple with, so explain how you became aware of the dilemma and how you tackled solving it. Describe the event or ccomplishment that shaped you but take care to also show what you learned or how you changed. Colleges are looking for a sense of maturity and introspectionâ€"pinpoint the transformation and demonstrate your personal growth. This prompt is an invitation to write about something you care about. So avoid the pitfall of writing about what you think will impress the admission office versus what truly matters to you. Colleges are looking for curious students, who are thoughtful about the world around them. Make sure you explain how you pursue your interest, as well. Test Your College Knowledge! Topic of your choice. You can even write your own question! Whatever topic you land on, the essentials of a standout college essay still stand: Show the admissions committee who you are beyond grades and test scores and 2. Dig into your topic by asking yourself how and why. More College Essay Topics Individual schools sometimes require supplemental essays. Here are a few popular application essay topics and some tips for how to approach them: Describe a person you admire. Avoid the urge to pen an ode to a beloved figure like Gandhi or Abraham Lincoln. Choose someone who has actually caused you to change your behavior or your worldview, and write about how this person influenced you. Why do you want to attend this school? Be honest and specific when you respond to this question. Your answer should not be a book report. What does your favorite book reveal about you? How do you identify with it, and how has it become personal to you? What is an extracurricular activity that has been meaningful to you? As with all essay questions, the most important thing is to tell a great story: Looking for strategic college advice? Get one-on-one help from former Ivy League and top tier admission officers. Our College Admission Counselors will help you find, apply, and get accepted to your dream school. We help students succeed in high school and beyond by giving them resources for better grades, better test scores, and stronger college applications. Follow us on Twitter:

Chapter 7 : College Essay Examples: How to Tackle Writing a Paper in University

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. â€" Writing a research paper is nothing new to students in the College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST), but that doesn't mean they always know the best place to go to get started.

It is a pure pleasure to deal with their writers, as they are professional and are always ready to make as many changes if need, even in the middle of the process" Mr. Therefore, I chose this service and never regretted my decision! They are the best at providing academic assistance! It only means that the curriculum is tough and it is impossible to keep up with all the tasks professors assign. Students also need to find enough time to balance studies with work and hobbies, as they want to spend their leisure time as interestingly as possible. In addition, they may need help to have a chance to catch up with a class after an illness or vacation. That is why hiring a college essay service is a great way out! Of course, you may find it difficult to choose a writing company you can trust, as they flood the market to attract students with low prices and attractive promises. All you need to do is to stay attentive, read testimonials online and choose a company, which provides clear and transparent services. Our company has been helping students for many years, so we know what you need and can guarantee that every paper will be written without any flaws or mistakes. You deserve to spend your youth the way you want! Have fun and enjoy free time with your friends, while we will be working on your order. Our benefits Every day hundreds of students choose us as their college essay helper, which helps us to remain the market leader and provide first-class services of all academic levels. Even if you are a high school student and need essay prompts, we are here for you! Here is what makes us stand out from the rest: Every essay or paper we deliver contains no mistakes, which is checked by our writers and editors. We put our reputation first, so it is important to always stay on the forefront of the latest technologies. We use the best plagiarism checker, which helps us fight plagiarism and deliver only unique papers; Free revisions and a money-back guarantee. When you fill in the order form, you are asked to indicate the deadlines. There is also a clear FAQ section on our website, where you can find answers on most of the questions; Professional writers. Before being hired, all the employees need to complete multiple interviews and tests to prove that they are able to write academic papers. Moreover, we deal only with the writers, who hold college degrees and have excellent writing abilities; Flexible prices. Who said that your essay should cost a fortune? We are ready to make our cooperation beneficial for both sides, so our managers will always help you to choose the best pricing! We have access to the best libraries in the world, so your essay will consist of relevant and credible information. Your professor will be surprised to see how well you have mastered the subject! Our college essay help aims to take academic writing to a completely new level. Contacting us, you get a chance to receive an outstanding essay and lots of discounts, improve your skills and have spare time for your job or hobbies! What are you waiting for? It is not easy to gain higher education and there is absolutely nothing wrong in asking for help. If you want to obtain a qualified help with college essays or even application essays, stop your search right now and contact our managers for further details! You will get a chance to follow the progress and ask for changes if necessary. Getting college essay help has never been so safe and simple! Let us start this journey and you will see how much easier your life will become.

Chapter 8: Tackling your first college paper. (Book,) [blog.quintoapp.com]

Tackling the College Paper: Tips on Getting It Done-and Getting the A (Students Helping Students) [Students Helping Students] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This book guides students step-by-step through the labyrinth of intros, theses, and conclusions.

Perhaps you were class president in high school. Or perhaps you were a member of the honor society. You could have graduated in the top percentile of your graduating class; perhaps you were even valedictorian. Maybe your were in the honors program or the International Baccalaureate program. You start college with a clean academic slate, along with a lot of independence and a myriad of critical decisions as you begin the transition into adulthood. The decisions that you make and the actions you take during this first year of college will have a major impact on the rest of your college experience. This article is not meant to scare you or take away any of the joy, excitement, and anticipation you feel about going to college. This article is all about the things you need to do to not only survive your first year of college, but to thrive in college. And many of the tools, skills, and habits that you can develop if you take this article to heart can not only be used to help you succeed in college, but in your future career as well. The first few weeks on campus are extremely critical for all new students. It is during this time that you make critical decisions that will have an effect on the rest of your life. Some of these 25 tips are critical during your first weeks, while the others are meant for longer-term guidance and survival. Whatever you do, be sure to be yourself and try to enjoy your college experience as much as possible. Go to all orientations. Do you really need to go on yet another campus tour? Get to know your roommate and others in your residence hall. The people you live with, most of whom are going through similar experiences and emotions, are your main safety net â€" not only this year, but for all your years. You may change roommates after the first semester or you may stay roommates for all four years â€" just take the time to get to know your fellow first-year students. In high school, the teachers tended to lead you through all of your homework and due dates. In college, the professors post the assignments â€" often for the entire semester â€" and expect you to be prepared. Buy an organizer, use an app, or get a big wall calendar â€" whatever it takes for you to know when assignments are due. Find the ideal place for you to study. It may be your dorm room or a cozy corner of the library, but find a place that works best for you to get your work done â€" while avoiding as many distractions as possible. Maybe, but sleeping in and skipping that 8 am class will be tempting at times. Become an expert on course requirements and due dates. Professors spend hours and hours preparing course syllabi and calendars so that you will know exactly what is expected of you â€" and when. One of the lamest excuses a student can give a professor: Meet with your professors. Speaking as a professor, I can assure you there are only upsides to getting to know your professors, especially if later in the semester you run into some snags. Professors schedule office hours for the sole purpose of meeting with students â€" take advantage of that time. Get to know your academic adviser. This is the person who will help you with course conflicts, adding or dropping courses, scheduling of classes for future semesters, deciding on majors and minors. This person is a key resource for you â€" and should be the person you turn to with any academic issues or conflicts. College life is a mixture of social and academic happenings. Get involved on campus. A big problem for a lot of new students is a combination of homesickness and a feeling of not quite belonging. Consider joining a select group and be careful not to go overboard â€" student organizations, clubs, sororities or fraternities, or sports teams. Strive for good grades. Another obvious one here, right? Remember the words of the opening paragraph; while good grades could have come naturally to you in high school, you will have to earn them in college â€" and that means setting some goals for yourself and then making sure you work as hard as you can to achieve them. Take advantage of the study resources on campus. Just about all colleges have learning labs and tutors available. Make time for you. Be sure you set aside some time for activities that help you relax and take the stress out of your day or week. And give your brain a break. Take responsibility for yourself and your actions. Being an adult means taking responsibility for everything that happens to you. Make connections with students in your classes. One of my best students said his technique in the first week of classes was to meet at least one new person in each of his classes. It expanded his network of

friends â€" and was a crucial resource at times when he had to miss a class. Find the Career Services office. It may have been easy in high school to wait until the last minute to complete an assignment and still get a good grade, but that kind of stuff will not work for you in college. Give yourself deadlines â€" and stick to them. A lot of problems first-year students face can be traced back to an illness that kept them away from classes for an extended period of time that led to a downward spiraling effect. Get enough sleep, take your vitamins, and eat right. And without mom or dad there to serve you a balanced meal, you may be tempted to go for those extra fries or cookies. Learn to cope with homesickness. Find a way to deal with those feelings, such as making a phone call or sending some email home. Stay on campus as much as possible. And why not take advantage of all the cultural and social events that happen on campus? Seek professional help when you need it. Most colleges have health and counseling centers. Keep track of your money. The average credit card debt of college grads is staggering. College is all about learning. Be prepared to feel overwhelmed. Expect to have moments where it seems a bit too much. As one student says, be prepared to feel completely unprepared. Take advantage of your network of new friends and professors, have fun while learning as much as you can, and get the most out of your college experience. Know that when the time comes to begin looking for your first internship or full-time job, LiveCareer has your resume and cover letter writing needs covered. Use our resume builder and cover letter builder to craft top-notch documents in no time at all, or work from our resume examples and cover letter examples, all of which are organized by job title and industry. Hansen is founder of Quintessential Careers, one of the oldest and most comprehensive career development sites on the Web, as well CEO of EmpoweringSites. He is also founder of MyCollegeSuccessStory. Hansen is also a published author, with several books, chapters in books, and hundreds of articles. Hansen is also an educator, having taught at the college level for more than 15 years. Visit his personal Website or reach him by email at randall at quintcareers.

Chapter 9: Tackling the College Paper | Open Library

College is a time for new experiences, new friends and new challenges. Unfortunately, some of those challenges for students commuting to college include getting to class on time, potentially spending a small fortune in fuel costs and packing onto a highway with thousands of others going to their post-college jobs.

Some Scattered Suggestions on Reading in College The first thing you should know about reading in college is that it bears little or no resemblance to the sort of reading you do for pleasure, or for your own edification. Professors assign more than you can possibly read in any normal fashion. We know it, at least most of us do. You have to make strategic decisions about what to read and how to read it. That calls for a certain kind of smash-and-grab approach to reading. Nor would I personally want to talk at my students day in and day out. They all take a while to master, through trial and error. But skimming is not just reading in a hurry, or reading sloppily, or reading the last line and the first line. A good skimmer has a systematic technique for finding the most information in the least amount of time. Let me take you through a skim of this book, bit by bit. In the first four pages, you should only really care about this sentence: Objectives Why are you reading this: If this were a class centrally concerned with Marxist theories of history, or on Marxist revolutions and their relationship to nationalism, it might be another matter. Signposts "I will argue" is a signpost--"If the Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Cambodia" is not. But these are pretty tricky passages. Table them for a while. So, look for more signposts: At the top of page 6: No nation imagines itself coterminous with mankind. More on the dictionary shortly. Ultimately it is this fraternity that makes it possible, over the past two centuries, for so many millions of people, not so much to kill, as willingly to die for such limited imaginings. Note the sequence of chapters by looking at their titles: Read the introduction of each of the chapters assigned, and perhaps even the ones not assigned. Return to each chapter as assigned, in the sequence they appear in the book. Do exactly what I outlined for the intro: Sketch out an outline of the sequence of argument in each chapter: You start to see this instead on the middle of page Enlightenment, of rationalist secularism, brought with it its own modern darkness. Nationalism and national communities replace religion and religious communities. Nationalism and national communities also replace the dynastic realm, the old monarchical order, around the same time. This happens in Western Europe in the eighteenth century. Many students, when writing papers, understand that you need to clearly define an overall argument and place it up front in the paper. But after that point, many student papers often contains a more or less random jumble of evidence which has some vague relation to the argument. To develop an argument well, each point should lead logically and sequentially to the next. His notion of simultaneity is critical to his argument in Chapter 3. Outlining the sequence of argument in readings should help you grasp this--assuming the reading is well-written. This is, of course, a perilous assumption with academic writing. There are five different basic kinds of footnotes: Sometimes amusing when you get "Anti-Logrolling", e. Sometimes scholars stick big, hairy problems with their argument down in the footnotes somewhere. Scholars, especially junior scholars, need to prove to their colleagues that they know the scholarship in the field that they are working on. So many footnotes are laundry lists of relevant books, or recap bodies of theory on a particular subject. Note their date of publication. Quite a few of these sources are older ones. Might there be a newer scholarship that would complicate matters? It also depends on the reading. Not that much of his book is going to need detailed references to primary material: It is different from a monograph, a tightly focused study of some specific historical subject or era. In a monograph, footnote references to evidence may be very, very important. But if a term recurs regularly in a text, or seems particularly central, you MUST learn to pick up a dictionary and find out what the author means. The Hi-Lighter Event Horizon. Try writing down key arguments and making your own outline. Mark two or three areas of potential disagreement or debate: