

Manual for Surviving College

Contents

Manual for Surviving College..... 3

How to Make Friends on the Bus.....3

How to Talk More in Class..... 4

How to be Involved on Campus.....5

Conclusion.....6

Manual for Surviving College

College is a time for change. You're encountering new people, new ideas, and a whole new location. It is understandable to be hesitant when you think about stepping out into this new world, even when you want to break free of your high school life and be involved. This guide will walk you through some of the more common situations you will encounter, and give you the best advice for tackling these situations.

So get out there and enjoy Virginia Tech!

How to Make Friends on the Bus

You just woke up at a new apartment, and you have no idea where you are. You have to get to campus, but the friend you usually ride with isn't there. The only possible solution is to either ride the bus in miserable and embarrassing silence, or make a friend.

Virginia Tech contains a plethora of people. You should, statistically, be able to make a new friend every day. Riding the bus from Maple Ridge to campus gives you ample time to forge a connection with strangers.

Warning: These steps will require you to talk to and interact with strangers.

1. Stand inside the bus shelter (Figure 1) at the Maple Ridge bus stop.



Figure 1: Figure 1

2. Place book in backpack and take headphones out of ears. Be as approachable as possible.
3. Locate another individual who is not looking at their phone while waiting (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Figure 2

4. Smile at that person.
5. Say "Hi, how are you?" and wait for a response.
6. Continue the conversation by finding a mutual interest.
7. Sit next to that person on the bus.
8. Exchange names.
9. Friend them on Facebook.

How to Talk More in Class

Now that you are on campus, and made a new friend, it's time to start asserting yourself in class. The best way to show off your knowledge, and impress your classmates, is to talk as much as you can in class.

This task will require you to speak your mind, whether or not you think you are correct. The best way to learn something is to be shut down multiple times!

1. Wait politely as the instructor begins the lecture.
2. Nod along and make assertive eye contact. Let the teacher know that you are paying attention.
3. Say "Yes, I understand," when the teacher asks the class about any questions or concerns and looks to you for guidance.
4. Raise your hand high and assertively (Figure 1) when the instructor opens up the floor for class discussion.



Figure 3: Figure 1

5. Talk about the first related topic that comes to mind.
6. Repeat steps 1-5 as you see fit.

How to be Involved on Campus

Now that you have made new friends and showed off your knowledge in class, you would like to join some organizations and test your skills in the "real world" of campus.

This task will require you to go to different organizations on campus to find the perfect fit for you and your interests. The following steps will walk you through one of the ways you can get involved.

1. Go to Gobblerfest at Virginia Tech (Figure 1).



Figure 4: Figure 1

2. Walk around and look at all of the clubs and activities being offered.
3. Find one that catches your interest. For example, Statistics or English Club.
4. Walk up to table.

5. Talk to the students about their club or organization.
6. Leave contact information.
7. Go to the club meetings once you receive their information.

Conclusion

Hopefully you are well on your way to becoming a more extroverted person. The most important piece of advice is to enjoy yourself, and to remember that everyone else you meet is just as awkward as you are!