

College Chronicles: Do's and Don'ts

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Alright, so at the time I'm writing this, I have only experienced four weeks of college. BUT in those four weeks, I've already learned a lot. Grab some popcorn or something to drink; time to take some notes!

1. AVOID PROCRASTINATION AT ALL COSTS

So the first thing that I have learned is I HAVE SO MUCH TIME! The institution that I'm attending has separated the semester into two seven-week sessions, so I only have two courses at the moment and both of them are online. To a further extent, I am going to college remotely the entire semester, so the amount of free time I have is going to be different from a typical college student's during a normal year (STUPID CORONA). I also have this college 101 course, but with all of that, I only meet about four times a week, my longest meetings being only an hour and ten minutes. But with that free time, it is easy to overestimate the time one has; sometimes, to the extent that he or she possibly procrastinates and runs into turning things in late or worse, cheating to get it done. PLEASE DON'T DO THAT! I think the best way to make sure you stay on top of your work and even possibly stay ahead, is to give yourself incentives for getting stuff done. For instance, sometimes when I have some reading to do for both of my courses and I want to continue binge-watching *Legend of Korra*, I force myself to do the reading and complete the work that goes along with it in order to do what I want to. This week I actually completed all of my homework ahead of time so I could actually rest during my weekend. Having a thinking ahead mentality is one of the best things that a college student can do because with all the free time, you will never get to the point of feeling overly stressed and or flustered.

2. I'M SO FREAKING BORED

Okay...so you do all of your work ahead of schedule and now, you really have no idea of how to take up time in your schedule. During my bouts of boredom, I have turned to reading novels (I've actually finished a novel within this time period! I rarely did that during high school!), watched Netflix, makeup videos on YouTube, and exercised. I've also been trying to spend time with my sister when she's not in class because she just started her junior year of high school. Sometimes, I've even taken a nap. This is when getting involved comes in handy. Now, of course, that's near impossible when you are going to school remotely. But because of the present time, at

least at my institution, I'm able to attend events virtually. Yesterday, I was able to do virtual bingo, which at first I wasn't sure about, but it ended up being a lot of fun. You could also do some things with your friends virtually. I mean, my friends and I started a whole magazine (lol), but there are so many things to do. If you're still unsure, I can direct you to my one of my articles in the August issue called ["Some Fun Things to Do During Quarantine Before School Starts Back Up Again"](#) because even though I specified quarantine, pretty much all of the activities can be done in any climate.

3. I WANT FRIENDS, HELP!!!

The funny thing about how I've made friends during this strange period of time is by following everyone who has my school's abbreviation in their bio and '24 with it. And even though I haven't talked to over half of them, some of those people are in my college 101 group, in my classes or just people that I come into contact with. It's been really great to be able to get to know these people, and find out that even though we may come from completely different areas, how much we have in common. So, if you find yourself missing out on social interaction, try to hit some of your classmates or schoolmates up on social media. I know it can be nerve-wracking (queen of anti-social interaction), but believe it when I say a person who may reach out to you first is just as nervous. Try to break the tension with a chill icebreaker or a question like, "What's your favorite song?" or "Have you watched *A:TLA* on Netflix yet?" (p.s. I'm sorry for the constant references to *A:TLA* and *Legend of Korra*, the staff and I literally are obsessed). Good luck!

4. I need to ask my professor something, but I'm scared it's going to be awkward

I've literally had so many moments of having to ask a professor something, and being terrified of them throwing shade at me for asking such an obvious question. Though I had those fears, I still took the leap of faith and sent them an email. In every instance, my professors have actually said "Great question(s)!", so I was definitely being paranoid for no reason. With that being said, no question is a stupid question. Seriously. I know literally everyone says that, but it's true. Especially in college where that quick question could be the difference of not having any plagiarism issues or having to face the integrity council. NEVER ASSUME! Assuming never does anyone good, so please ask. If you don't feel comfortable asking the professor, ask the tutor for that class or if there's a teacher's assistant, ask them. It also helps to try to create a

good relationship with the professor, so when you're in class, talk to them and participate rather than stay quiet. It will help, I promise!

Okay, I think that's all I got for now. Hopefully, your college experience is running smoothly so far, and I also hope that this advice will help it be even more successful.