Ruben Arguello

University Writing 1102-011



The College Struggle: Organization, are students ready for a university lifestyle?

Content:

After studying why most college students fail I find the real problem to be how ready a student is to a university lifestyle. Being successful in any institution requires a student to be disciplined. How to be and maintain organized is the key to success.

Preconceptions:

 I am currently in my third semester of college and my first semester was very hard. Now to clarify the content is not the problem. Most freshmen are taking your typical history, math, science, and or English class. The content in these courses in my personal opinion are not overwhelming. I found what troubled me most was How to be organized and adjust to a new school schedule.

1. Students are living alone for the first time
2. New found Freedom
3. Mom and Dad are gone
4. Money
5. Stress and Motivation

I have listed above common problems most college students face. I found it very hard to stay motivated and keep my stress levels low. I remember feeling overwhelmed.

Audience Analysis:

A) This study will be relevant to both current and incoming college students. B) The university would also be interested in the study as well.

The students do not want to fail. We all have heard before that the first semester of college “weeds out” students. This study will hopefully give a new perspective and answer to how overcome most college problems by targeting student personal organization.

The university is looking for high passing numbers. If someone can find a new way to look at student success they will look into it.

Resources and Research:

1. As I continue this project I will be keeping a Project Journal. I will also keep a working Works Cited page.
2. The Journal will serve to keep track of my thoughts and records of any first hand resources I find. I plan to ask students questions on the topic and the journal will keep the personal interviews I conduct.
3. The ongoing Works Cited page will be employed to keep track of all online research.
4. As I research my topic, I hope to find online studies and statistics to help my thesis. I also want to collect personal student opinions. Between past research and personal accounts I hope to find a new perspect to this old question of how to be successful in college.

Sources (as of 10/ 24/15):

1. Straighterline.com – “8 Time Management tips for College Students”
2. College Student Journal – “Why First Generation Students Fail”
3. “Why Students Fail First Semester

Project Needs:

I will have too work on my interviewing skills.

Results: I believe this study will benefit the university as an institution to obtain higher student success numbers and possibly a new way to help its students. Students should be able to better understand themselves and how to be more successful. I hope this study has a new perspective on student success.

Works Cited

Dumbauld, Beth. "8 Time Management Tips for Adult College

Students." *Blog How to Save on Your College Degree StraighterLine 8 Time Management Tips for Adult College Students Comments*. StraighterLine, 30 June 2014. Web. 23 Oct. 2015.

Eikeland, Ole-JoHan, and Treje Manger. "Why Students Fail during

Their First University Semesters." *Journal of Life Long Learning* 38.5 (2009): 489-503. *Kluwer Academic Publishers*. Web. 23 Oct. 2015.

Mehta, Sanjay S., John J. NewBold, and Matthew A. O'Rourke. "WHY

DO FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS FAIL?" *College Student Journal* 45.1 (1996): 20+. Web. 23 Oct. 2015.

Dumbauld:

College students know to be successful they must know how to utilize all of their

recourses to their fullest potential. This article list 8 simple tips and ideas for university students to succeed in school.

EikeLand:

This article focuses on Norwegian students' achievement and adjustment in their first university semesters. A survey showed a positive correlation between success in upper secondary school and success at university. The study also showed that to have good organised study habits had a positive effect on self-confidence during the students' first semester

Mehta:

 This study finds that first-generation students are less involved, have less social and financial support, and do not show a preference for active coping strategies. First-generation students report less social and academic satisfaction as well as lower grade point average.

So far I believe the first two articles will help me the most.