

Research: College Survival Skills

Research has shown that, for most students, the most difficult time for a college student is the first semester. By far, this semester has the biggest drop-out rate. Why? College freshmen face challenges that are different from what they have experienced their entire lives. For some people, the biggest challenge is freedom. That's right. Freedom. With no parent or guardian in the immediate vicinity to give them rules, they flounder in their new found freedom. I personally watched a brilliant young man across the hall succumb to the lure of video-games. Yes, as silly as that sounds, he played Playstation ALL DAY! His parents had always given him strict rules about when to do his homework, when to study, when to be home by. When he arrived in the college dorm, he no longer had that all pervading influence. He rebelled. He failed out of college the first semester he was there.

For this project, you will be researching one topic from a list of things that concern most incoming college freshmen. Your goal will be to create a presentation on college survival skills. This presentation will consist of an oral presentation (PowerPoint might be a good option for this) and a poster board with important information about your topic. The poster board will be graded according to the information that you include, as well as the graphics that you also include. You must give your audience information about the topic, as well as solutions to possible problems, and ways to find help if they need it during their freshmen year. Be sure to include Campus resources from your specific colleges that relate to your topic.

Good Luck!

You will be working individually or in pairs to research the following topics:

- Roommates
- Drug Abuse
- Alcohol Abuse
- Stress
- Time Management
- Dealing with Freedom (Self motivation)
- Credit Cards and Debt Management
- Money Management
- Working a job at college
- Homesickness
- Safety/Survival (Especially cover the Blue Light Services from Cornell)
- Ways to deal with Peer Pressure
- Plagiarism
- Listening skills
- Note-taking strategies

College Survival Rubric

Student Name _____

CATEGORY	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Comprehension	Student is able to accurately answer almost all questions posed by classmates about the topic.	Student is able to accurately answer most questions posed by classmates about the topic.	Student is able to accurately answer a few questions posed by classmates about the topic.	Student is unable to accurately answer questions posed by classmates about the topic.
Preparedness	Student is completely prepared and has obviously rehearsed.	Student seems pretty prepared but might have needed a couple more rehearsals.	The student is somewhat prepared, but it is clear that rehearsal was lacking.	Student does not seem at all prepared to present.
Time-Limit	Presentation is 5-6 minutes long.	Presentation is 4 minutes long.	Presentation is 3 minutes long.	Presentation is less than 3 minutes OR more than 6 minutes.
Listens to Other Presentations	Listens intently. Does not make distracting noises or movements.	Listens intently but has one distracting noise or movement.	Sometimes does not appear to be listening but is not distracting.	Sometimes does not appear to be listening and has distracting noises or movements.
Content	Shows a full understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic.	Does not seem to understand the topic very well.
Stays on Topic	Stays on topic all (100%) of the time.	Stays on topic most (99-90%) of the time.	Stays on topic some (89%-75%) of the time.	It was hard to tell what the topic was.

College Survival Rubric

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CATEGORY	Excellent 20	Good 15	Satisfactory 10	Needs Improvement 5
Organization	Information is very organized with well-constructed paragraphs and subheadings.	Information is organized with well-constructed paragraphs.	Information is organized, but paragraphs are not well-constructed.	The information appears to be disorganized. 8)
Amount of Information	All topics are addressed and all questions answered with at least 2 sentences about each.	All topics are addressed and most questions answered with at least 2 sentences about each.	All topics are addressed, and most questions answered with 1 sentence about each.	One or more topics were not addressed.
Quality of Information	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1-2 supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given.	Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic.

Making A Poster : College Survival Skills

Teacher Name: **Mr. Wheaton**

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Use of Class Time	Used time well during each class period. Focused on getting the project done. Never distracted others.	Used time well during each class period. Usually focused on getting the project done and never distracted others.	Used some of the time well during each class period. There was some focus on getting the project done but occasionally distracted others.	Did not use class time to focus on the project OR often distracted others.
Graphics -Clarity	Graphics are all in focus and the content easily viewed and identified from 6 ft. away.	Most graphics are in focus and the content easily viewed and identified from 6 ft. away.	Most graphics are in focus and the content is easily viewed and identified from 4 ft. away.	Many graphics are not clear or are too small.
Graphics - Relevance	All graphics are related to the topic and make it easier to understand. All borrowed graphics have a source citation.	All graphics are related to the topic and most make it easier to understand. All borrowed graphics have a source citation.	All graphics relate to the topic. Most borrowed graphics have a source citation.	Graphics do not relate to the topic OR several borrowed graphics do not have a source citation.
Required Elements	The poster includes all required elements as well as additional information.	All required elements are included on the poster.	All but 1 of the required elements are included on the poster.	Several required elements were missing.
Knowledge Gained	Student can accurately answer all questions related to facts in the poster and processes used to create the poster.	Student can accurately answer most questions related to facts in the poster and processes used to create the poster.	Student can accurately answer about 75% of questions related to facts in the poster and processes used to create the poster.	Student appears to have insufficient knowledge about the facts or processes used in the poster.
Content - Accuracy	At least 7 accurate facts are displayed on the poster.	5-6 accurate facts are displayed on the poster.	3-4 accurate facts are displayed on the poster.	Less than 3 accurate facts are displayed on the poster.
Attractiveness	The poster is exceptionally attractive in terms of design, layout, and neatness.	The poster is attractive in terms of design, layout and neatness.	The poster is acceptably attractive though it may be a bit messy.	The poster is distractingly messy or very poorly designed. It is not attractive.