DIY

Do-It-Yourself Tools to Handle University-Based Problems

Awareness: Conflict can arise in a classroom or residence hall, with a faculty member or fellow student. Here are some tips and resources that may help address some common issues that students encounter.

Prevention: Focusing on good communication will help prevent problems in these areas. If problems to arise, use an approach of *early intervention*.

Grade or Instructional Concern

- Talk with your professor or TA as soon as there is a problem. Schedule a meeting or go to office hours, rather than trying to catch them before or after class. Meet in person whenever possible, or talk by phone.
- Bring paperwork related to your concern – syllabus, assignments, policy, doctor's note, etc.
- If the professor is not responsive or the issue does not get resolved, call SCRC and we can help you identify options for resolution.

Check out this video at http://www.sos.umn.edu/students/grades.html.

Group Projects

- Establish shared goals right away. Think about the skills or preferences that each person brings and divide the work accordingly. Is one person suited to research, while another is a great writer?
- Clarify timeline expectations, check in frequently, and follow up with each other.
- Consider putting these expectations in writing and refer to them as you progress through the project.

Check out more tips on successful group projects here:
http://www.sos.umn.edu/Documents/DIY%20Group%20Projects.pdf.

Roommate Conflicts

- Recognize that conflict is normal when you share space.
- Establish some basic ground rules for your living space: schedules, visitors, cleaning, sharing things, quiet hours, paying bills, etc.
- Address concerns as soon as they arise – don't wait or let the frustration build.
- Listen to the other person and try to find a solution that satisfies both of your needs.
- If you can't resolve it between yourselves, seek a neutral third party to help you: SCRC, RA, Hall Director, trusted mutual friend.

Check out this video at http://www.sos.umn.edu/students/roommate.html.

This resource is brought to you by the Student Conflict Resolution Center.