

## Sample C

Life insists that some lessons are learned through experience, and, speaking as an inadequate perfectionist, I daresay I disagree. Because plainly there are two kinds of mistakes- the kind which are worth living through, and the kind which aren't. Should one, tiny, underestimation cost you ten points off your average? I think not, although usually the underestimation is really not so tiny.

There are seven essential guidelines I've discovered at Monument. Some I've broken myself, others I've only witnessed, but, believe me, it's all true.

- 1 The earbud headphones that come with your iPod are good for many things, including listening to music, accidentally hitting yourself in the face, and causing substantial hearing loss. Recently I've noticed another use for earbuds. While walking down the hallway one may plug another person in by giving them a head phone so that you each have one, thus sharing your music on your two minute trip to class and also making it nearly impossible to walk. Is this a sign of love? Kinship? Some new and modern ball and chain prisonery type deal? Do you just enjoy listening to life in mono? Yes, good, I can see you have friends and it's truly adorable, but, please, one request. Do not sing. Singing when you can't hear yourself is fine in private, but unfortunately it is not to be broadcast to the entire fleet of hallway travelers. Please stop hurting me.
- 2 Everyone procrastinates. Do not however, get your fix by putting off your reading assignments. If you put off your reading you inadvertently put off doing the written work and writing the paper as well. This is terrible. You do not want to be caught one hundred pages behind in three classes. Maybe you ought to start now. Right this very second.
- 3 Ipods show up again here. If you have one great. If you have a cell phone great. But bring them to school at your own risk. Or as I like to say, BBTTSAYOR. If it gets stolen it's your fault and there's nothing more annoying than having my class interrupted because someone needs to announce that so and so lost their electronic over the intercom. Please take care of your stuff.
- 4 Be friends with your teachers. They are cool. Remember that they are people and they have feelings. So take care of them.
- 5 Name-drop if you must, but a) be sincere, and b) always be sure whomever you are talking to knows a little something about your name-dropping patron.
- 6 Cherish your community. It is not only where you get your attendance taken. There are countless activities you can do together such as Secret Holiday Gift Exchange (which all but a couple of the more unenthusiastic members of my community participated in), food drives, and community trips (we are planning one). Community may seem short, but in reality, the time spent with those ten people adds up to six and a half days. That's like climbing Machu Picchu slowly. Take care of each other and stay well because you're in it for the long haul.
- 7 Lastly, don't take the opportunities and resources offered to you at Monument for granted. By all means go on Jaffe trips, work at the Crafts Fair, attend Dowmel lectures, do a WISE project your senior year, and go to or participate in every theatre production you can. If you can't find what you want, ask. Make it up yourself. If you want it enough you can have it. If you're bored, shame on you.

I'm trying very hard to be taken seriously, so please, humor me, I know what I'm talking about.

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