

To be honest, going into college I had no idea what I was in for. I was really worried that it would be too hard or too stressful, or that I wouldn't make any close friends. However, New Lancer Days eased some of my worries, thanks to them, I knew my way around and made some friends that will last a lifetime. To me, it was really helpful to be able to get to know the people in my major. I was also able to learn my way around campus so I wouldn't be lost every time I left my dorm. I found that the workshops and keynote speakers taught me a lot that I didn't know. For example, during the bystander training, I learned how to safely help someone in a dangerous situation. And during molecules that monkey with your mind I found out the truth about alcohol, drugs, and sex by taking interactive surveys. It was eye opening to see how what we thought was different from the actual statistics.

Over the course of new lancer days, I learned personal responsibility because I was required to rely on myself for things, rather than having my parents to help me. I was able to learn to come out of my shell and not be afraid to be myself. During the first week I was here, I had to do some laundry by myself and clean my room and bathroom with the help of my roommate. I also had to learn to be responsible by getting my work done even when my roommates or suitemates were being loud. I had the responsibility of being on time to meet my peer mentor every morning. During New Lancer Days, punctuality was crucial, and I feel that it prepared me for classes, because there is no excuse for being late when the professor has already started their lecture.

I also learned how to be self-sufficient because I had to manage my time effectively, which I think helped me transition into classes. Being in college, my parents aren't there to tell me to do my homework and get my work done. So when I have free time between classes, it's really easy to take a nap or watch Netflix instead of doing homework. When we had breaks during our daily activities, I would try to socialize with new people instead of just going straight

back to my room. Within the first week of classes I have had to learn how to manage my time so I can do my homework but also have fun and go to sleep at a decent hour. I'm relieved because time management was one of my biggest concerns about college. In high school, there was more of a schedule for me to follow and I had virtually no time between classes. College classes being spread out are nice, but I just have to focus on keeping track of my time.

And lastly, I learned to be a citizen leader by following the example of my peer mentor, Mike. From the time I met him, he was always so helpful and supportive, especially during the peer mentor prime times. I enjoyed them so much because they also gave me an opportunity to learn more about Longwood and the traditions here. Mike was willing to answer any questions I had and give me tips and advice about being successful in college. He was such a big part of New Lancer Days and we all would have had no clue what to do without him. Another helpful person was my RA, Charles. He is very helpful and approachable. One of the first days we were here, I was having trouble connecting to the internet and I couldn't get in contact with an RTA since it was a Friday. I went to Charles and he called his friend that was an RTA and asked him to help me and within thirty minutes, I had internet.

In conclusion, I loved New Lancer Days. Yes, it was tiring at some times but I feel like my outlook on college was improved. Being in the Honors College, I had been here since the 15th. I felt that after having been there a few days before the other students gave me a little bit more time to adjust to college life. But looking back, the Honors Retreat and New Lancer Days were very different. New Lancer Days allowed me to meet more people and make some great memories with my friends. I believe that New Lancer Days will be helpful for other freshmen in the future in order to get them accustomed to Longwood. I loved all of the fun events that we attended. Tailgating with the Lancers was a great way to meet people.