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LSEM 51: Reflective Writing Assignment #1 – Looking back on New Lancer Days

When I look back on New Lancer Days, I recall a stressful, fun, hectic and tiring weekend. Practically every moment of the day was filled with events, whether that be listening to a speaker, having group discussions, enjoying evening entertainment, or participating in the annual Honor and Integrity Ceremony. It was obvious that countless hours of work had been put into making New Lancer Days such a memorable weekend. Longwood Seminar encourages citizen leadership, personal responsibility and self-sufficiency, and all three of these were certainly shown throughout New Lancer Days.

Citizen leadership during New Lancer Days seems to hold the most significance in my mind. A countless number of people were involved in New Lancer Days, many of whom were students. New Lancer Days wouldn’t have been possible without citizen leadership. The students (especially the peer mentors) stepped up to the plate and devoted hours upon hours of time into making the freshmen feel welcome and at home. The peer mentors have busy schedules and lives of their own, but they chose to devote their time to make New Lancer Days a success.

Secondly, personal responsibility played a huge role throughout New Lancer Days. Those who planned the weekend’s events certainly had more responsibilities than those attending, but even those of us who attended New Lancer Days had personal responsibilities of our own. The peer mentors were responsible for being informative and welcoming, and for utilizing their leadership skills to help the new students in any way possible. They were responsible for telling us freshmen where to be and when to arrive, answering our countless questions, leading discussions in our LSEM groups, and so much more. Freshmen were expected to show up at the correct place, to be on time, to participate in conversations, and to be respectful, kind and considerate.

Lastly, I believe that self-sufficiency played a key role in New Lancer Days, especially for the freshmen. New Lancer Days is practically the first experience freshmen have at Longwood. It doesn’t really sink in until our parents leave that we are actually on our own. Longwood is there to help and support us, but overall, each student is responsible for himself/herself. We have to provide for ourselves, and no one is there to nag us to do our homework or clean our room. We are now self-sufficient college students (or at least we are college students who are learning to be self-sufficient).

Overall, New Lancer Days was filled with prime examples of citizen leadership, personal responsibility and self-sufficiency. Not only did I take away from New Lancer Days how to be a responsible, self sufficient leader, but I also learned more about myself and more about the university that will be my home for the next four years. New Lancer Days helped me feel more comfortable on campus, make friends who I will possibly be spending the next four years with, and set me up for a successful college experience.