

Roommate Worksheet

Communication Tips

The key to every relationship, including the one with your roommate, is communication. You need to be open – ask, listen, and discuss.

Don't wait until things build up inside you and get out of hand. Before it gets to that point – TALK IT OUT. Explain in a mature fashion what is bothering you and help your roommate(s) understand why.

The Do's

- Do be genuine and say what is going right as well as what is going wrong.
- Do listen carefully, realizing that good listening is hard work that takes practice and good intentions.
- Be sensitive to each others moods – everybody has bad days, so try to understand when your roommate has one too.
- Share belongings you feel comfortable sharing and clearly state what you do not want to share.
- Seek assistance from you RA when things cannot be worked out between the two of you.

The Do Not's

- Do not be antagonistic, arbitrary or patronizing.
- Avoid using inhibiting remarks like "Why don't you listen to reason?" or "We've already tried that."
- Do not interrupt. Listen carefully to the other person and do not jump to conclusions.
- Avoid discussing your roommate problems/conflicts with your friends and neighbors. Discuss the situation with your roommate.

General Expectations

Your enjoyment of life in College of Charleston housing will depend, to a large extent on the thoughtful consideration you demonstrate for you roommate and your neighbors.

In addition to abiding by the General Code of Student Conduct and the housing regulations, the College expects you to establish and maintain a healthy relationship with your roommate.

- It is a privilege to have guests in your room. Both you and your guests need to respect the rights of your roommate(s) and other hall members.
- It is everyone's responsibility to keep the building clean; even yours!
- Respect your roommate's belongings, they are not yours.
- Settle conflicts peacefully. Your RA is available to assist you in resolving conflicts.
- Respect the rights of others to read, study and sleep free from undue interference. Unreasonable noise and other distractions inhibit the exercise of these rights.
- Respect your roommate's right to free access of the room.
- Respect the personal privacy of others.
- No one has the right to intimidate or cause physical or emotional harm to another.
- Facilities and fixtures need to be shared.
- While the CofC's staff will assist you in solving problems, it is your responsibility to actively participate in the solution.

Discussion Questions

These questions facilitate the discussion of some important roommate issues. You and your roommate(s) should discuss each question and then come to a consensus. Use your answers to complete the enclosed Roommate Contract.

Visitation

- Are there times when you would prefer that friends of the same sex not be invited to visit in the room?
- Are there times when you would prefer that friends of the opposite sex not be invited to visit in the room?
- If your visitors are bothering your roommate, how would you like to be confronted?
- How do you feel about your roommate's friends using your belongings?
- How do you feel about having people in the room when you are trying to study?

Study Time

- When do you prefer to study?
- Can you study with noise, such as the TV or stereo?
- Do you prepare in advance or cram?
- Would you prefer to have set study times?

Quiet Hours

- When do you usually go to bed?
- How much sleep is it important for you to have?
- Can you sleep with the light on?
- Can you sleep with the stereo or TV playing?
- What time will you be waking up in the mornings?
- What are you like in the morning?
- If you are making too much noise, how would you like for your roommate to confront you?
- What time do you feel is too early or too late to make and receive phone calls?

Personal Property

- What items can be shared and which may not?
- Do you want to be asked before things are borrowed?
- How will the refrigerator space be shared?

House Keeping

- How neat and clean do you like for things to be?
- Who will vacuum, dust, wash the dishes, clean the bathroom, and take out the trash?
- Do you prefer to have specific assignments? How often will these tasks be done?
- If you are not as neat as your roommate thinks you should be, how would you like your roommate to confront you?
- Do you like the way the room is arranged? If not, what would you like to change?

Behavior

- What are your opinions about smoking cigarettes in the room?
- How do you feel about the drinking of alcoholic beverages in the room?
- What do you consider to be excessive in terms of noise?
- What do you consider fair use of the phone?
- What are some of your habits which you think your roommate should know about?
- What are you like when you are in a bad mood?
- What do you like to do in your spare time?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- When you do something your roommate doesn't like, how would you like for your roommate to handle it?
- Do you hold a grudge, or do you say what's on your mind and then forget it?
- Do you want to be included in your roommate's social activities?

Miscellaneous

- What goals have you set for yourself this semester?
- What other item(s) would you like to bring up for discussion?

Roommate Contract

Please write a specific statement under each heading describing what your roommate(s) have decided about that topic. Use the information shared during the discussion segment to agree or compromise so that each issue may be addressed. If you leave a topic "open," your RA will check with you in a few days to see if you have reached an agreement.

As roommates, we have discussed aspects of living together and have agreed upon the details written below:

Study Time:

Quiet Time:

Telephone Time:

Personal Property:

Finances:

Neatness:

Visitation:

Behavior:

Miscellaneous:

WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE MAY RENEGOTIATE THIS CONTRACT AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR BY CONTACTING OUR RA.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

RA/HA Signature: _____

Please retain the original and yellow copies of this contract and give the pink copy to your RA.
Thank you for completing the ROOMMATE CONTRACT.