

This letter is a letter of “advice” which will be given to next year’s MATH 185 class as they enter UIndy. Let your experience serve as a source of wisdom for these new students. Give them the information you needed, but did not receive. Let them know ways that you found to make it as a college student. Teach them from your successes, and let them learn from your mistakes.

Formal instructions:

- 1) The letter must be dated
- 2) It must begin Dear 2016 Freshman
- 3) It must include the following
 - a) **Introduction** – introduce yourself, where you are from, which high school you went to, why you chose UIndy, what you want to do and study while here. If you are having trouble deciding on a major/career, talk about that. Explain one or two things you have learned about yourself this semester. You may use just your first name or initials so the person doesn’t know who you are.
 - b) **Transitions** – explain your most difficult transitions from high school to college. You may focus on life in the residence halls, your changing life at home, meeting others, adjusting to college classes, the commute, time management, higher stress, money management, etc. Note the ways in which you found help – how professors, friends, staff, family, etc. have helped you make it through.
 - c) **Discovering UIndy** – please list any resources you discovered that have been helpful to your success and happiness here (i.e., tutoring labs, advocacy services, clubs or sports, RA’s, etc.). Explain how you found them and how they help.
 - d) **Learning Strategies** – please explain the strategies you learned that were most helpful to your academic and personal success this semester (test-taking, time management, study skills, etc.). Are there any opportunities for help that you wish you had known on Day1?
 - e) **Changes** – Talk about how things have changed since you started college. Talk about how you have changed, how your thinking has been challenged, how relationships have changed, etc. Talk about the new and interesting people and experiences you have seen.
 - f) **Advice** – As “survivors” of your first college semester, explain to next year’s class how to make it through. What were some of your more challenging times, and how did you get through them? What pieces of information do you wish you would have known coming in? Give them anything you WISH you would have known.

This is due by 4 pm on December 15. You may e-mail it to me (as an attachment) if you wish or drop it by my office. The paper must be typed and at least two pages double-spaced.