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Headline: How to Find the Right College Roommate for You
Written Date: October 2019

You picked your classes, your friends, and a part-time job. But where do you find the right college roommate for you? It can be a difficult task but by doing your research, you can find the one that fits your criteria. You can't be expected to hire a private investigator to do the digging for you. Instead, here are some ways to find the right roommate for you.

1. University Matching Survey

Create a list of your ideal living environment, keeping in mind the kind of person you'd be able to mesh with on a daily basis. For example: "Are you an early bird or a night owl?" and "Do you need a spotless living space or can you handle more of a lived-in mess?" Today, more colleges take their roommate listings to an online residential housing site where current student can log in, create a profile and scroll through matches of potential roommates. For instance, at the University of Southern California and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County uses a secure university on-campus roommate finder website to connect those in search of a roommate. "Upper class and incoming students all must complete a housing application, which includes a questionnaire/profile list. The system will provide a "compatibility score" which is a percentage of how similar they are in their answers, said Bridgewater College Assistant Director for Residence Life, Ricky Reiss. Your goal is to cast a wider net.

2. Social Media

Colleges these days have Facebook pages with anything from clubs to graduating classes, and yes, roommate connections. For example, if you're a sophomore at Boston College seeking a roommate for the upcoming semester, you can simply go your graduation class Facebook page, join the group page, post your request there and see what happens. And, if another student shows a real interest in your request, you can get to know them through messaging to see if he or she is the right roommate for you and your living needs. Connecting through that common link of social media more easily lays the foundation for that fairytale roommate relationship many can only dream of—take advantage of it.

3. Online Roommate Websites

You can use a roommate finder website to find a roommate. It's almost like online dating, but for finding a roommate. Two of the most popular roommate finder websites are Roomsurf and RoomSync. All you have to do is sign up, take the roommate compatibility quiz or say what you are looking for in a roommate, and review potential roommate matches. It's different from submitting a roommate matching survey with your campus' reference life office as roommate finder apps are a third-party resource not officially affiliated with a university. The websites provide options for students who don't want to find roommates through the residence's life office on their campus.

4. Roommate Finder Apps

For those that can't stand to take the half hour out of their day to sit at a computer and scour the pages for a feasible match, don't worry. You can now make the tedious process a little less so by taking your search on the go. These roommate finder apps that countless students actively use to find their potential match include Roomie, SpareRoom, and Roomster. These online apps work very similar to the websites above, so don't feel too intimidated by a learning curve to the apps. Even though you've remained in the dark for this long, many universities already got their head in the game by enrolling with the service. This being said, those university certified roommate matches are just waiting for that simple click from you.

5. Ask Friends

If you want to steer clear of outside options, you can always ask your close friends if they know of anyone looking for a roommate. This extended network of those that care about your wellbeing comes in handy to get the word out about your roommate search. Politely reach out and tell them about your situation. They're there to lend a helping hand. Your friends might know someone who's also looking for a roommate and can help introduce one another. Do keep in mind though that BFFs as roommates can make or break a friendship.

6. Post an Advertisement through Your University

You can also post an online flyer through your university's portal website. Some have a discussion thread where students can write an advertisement about anything. Students use this to see if anyone shows interest in rooming with them. "We try to provide a list for students to sign up in order to look for a roommate so they can contact one another," said Sweet Briar College Student Life Director, Victor Lindsay. For instance, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has a discussion thread where students can post information about housing and create an advertisement through MyUMBC to find roommates. "We have more 'safe guards' in place to ensure who has access to their information and what it is being used for. An outside matching source might not know the 'ins and outs' of the college and make a match or placement that would end up being detrimental to the student," said Reiss. It's among the best ways to put yourself out there while still being safe online.

7. On-Campus Events

Take your search to the streets of campus by attending on-campus events offered at the beginning of the semester. You can meet new people and decide if they're your kind of roommate material. This collective meeting setting allows you to more easily break the ice and keep in touch with people. A popular example is on-campus orientation; an event made specifically to help new students connect with one another while getting a better feel for the campus. Keep your eyes peeled and your mind open to those you start to mesh with here. Who knows, they might be the perfect person to wake up next to in that tiny cinderblock room you'll call home.

8. Living Learning Communities (LLC)

Many colleges have living learning communities that allows students to get connected with other people in a close-knit group with similar interests from all around the world. The similar interests include academics, career exploration, and diversity. Students must apply with their college's residence life office to join an LLC. The University of California, Los Angeles

have several LLCs for students to choose from to explore new opportunities not found anywhere else. It's a great way to take a more educated risk at a random roommate as you can start off knowing you have at least one thing in common.

9. Take a Chance with an Assigned Roommate

If living with a complete stranger like Norman Bates or Pennywise scares you, then, you're not alone. Take a deep breath, put on some relaxing music, strap on that socializing cap of yours and take this one step at a time. Contact your assigned roommate and schedule a time to meet with them in-person in a public place. Get to know them and ask questions about their living style. Be your true self. "It's important for students to be honest with their answers, flexible with acceptance of a new roommate, and clear. Some students are sharing space for the first time so it is important that they be open and get to know one other," said University of Richmond Residence Life and Undergraduate Student Housing Director, Patrick Benner. If you're still getting some indifferent vibes, swap out that social cap for your detective hat and conduct your own extensive background check via social media. "You need to stand 100 percent certain that who you're rooming with won't add to the stress you'll already feel come midterm season.

10. If All Else Fails, Live that Single Life

You've tried everything from apps to websites to standing in middle of the quad, pleading to whoever crossed your path and yet you still remain without a roommate in sight. Before you wave that white flag of defeat, consider thriving in that single dorm life. Now, if you've already signed a housing contract or signed a lease, this switch may be a bit more complicated than just changing your preferences from a double to a single room. If you decide to break these contracts, a fee may be involved when moving to single room or leaving on-campus housing altogether. Check in with your university housing services or flip through that lengthy housing contract of yours for more specified info. Once you've sorted out all of the legal matters, your final step will be to take a trip to the pet store for a much smaller, aquatic roommate to keep you company while living in your single pringle state.

Now you are all set to find the right roommate for you. Happy searching!