



Everything you ever wanted to know about slacking in University, but were too lazy to ask

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CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE MADE IT. You've shrugged off the heavy chains of high school and survived the banality of summertime employment. Perhaps you've packed all of your worldly possessions in to a bag and moved clear across the country. Or, maybe you're still living at home, suckling greedily at your parents' teat.

Either way, you're here: a postsecondary student. A time of meeting exciting new people, discovering exciting new interests, and finding exciting new places to drink. It's a time to take that final step from the confusing wild of being an awkward high-school student into the monotonous meadow of being an awkward first-year.

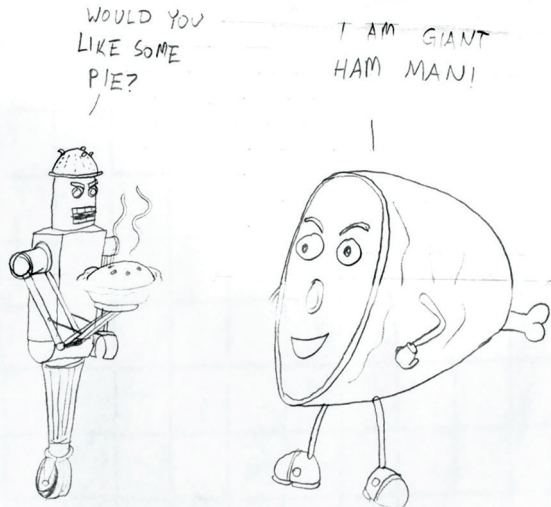
But soon, you will realize that, along with these fresh, tingly feelings, is the burden of expectation that you'll actually need to work to obtain a degree. Essays and midterms (not to mention proper hygiene) can be quite the harsh awakening for the new student. What to do when you find yourself unprepared to deal with academia, the place you came to avoid the real world in the first place?

Some might think it's time to buckle down and get to work, proving that you do in fact deserve a chance to study at university. But, that seems like a lot of effort. The other choice is to coast your way through the first year and pray that, by some miracle, you magically become a hard-working student by the time second year rolls around, rather than the useless lazy cad you are now.

Now, many of you might think that you have what it takes to successfully slack your way through the first year; some of you are probably celebrated and accomplished high school slackers. Well, unfortunately, that simply will *not* cut it in university. You're in the big leagues now, and you're going to need to bring your A material if you want to pull this off. Not doing a lot of work happens to be a lot of work, if you know what I mean. Luckily, you're not alone. This guide comes from a long line of people who have successfully slipped their way through the first year. You will be taught the basic tricks of how to get the most out of your education without actually trying. These tips have been passed down through the ages, ever since prehistoric man first started sleeping in the back row of his SCI 101: Introduction to Fire courses five million years ago (or somewhere around there. I skipped all of my first year ANTHRO courses.)

Before we begin, it should be noted that this isn't a guide on how to do well in your first year. There are many of those around already. This is a guide on how to coast through. By choosing the life of the university slacker, you will forfeit much: high grades, scholarships and awards, and the respect of your peers and instructors. But really, what's all that compared to a few extra hours of sleep and video games?

Let's begin.



A mind is a thing to waste

The first step to successful slacking is to get in to what is referred to as the Slacker State of Mind, or SSoM. The SSoM is a place of peace, free from all worries, concerns and work ethic. It's where we connect with the lazy lout within.

Achieving the SSoM is a difficult process that can take upwards of ten minutes to master. Like every good state of peace and higher understanding, you need to get a good mantra going. Something short and sweet, with a little bit of rhythm and, if you can swing it, just a dash of alliteration. My suggestion? "Centre on the Credit."

You see, every slacker's greatest enemies are his friends. Upon learning that you've decided to follow the righteous path of the lazy, well-meaning friends will attempt to lead you back to the cult of hard work. One of their favourite ways of trying to lure you back to the fold is the tricky tactic known as the Accountant. They will divide the cost of your course by the number of classes in a semester. The number they get will be expressed in cost per class (\$/class), they will attempt to guilt you in to proper attendance.

EXAMPLE: COST OF CLASS = \$450.00

NUMBER OF CLASSES = 36

EQUATION: $450/36 = 19.5$

(OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I SKIPPED ALL OF MY MATH 101 COURSES.)

SOLUTION: \$/CLASS = \$20 (YOUR FRIEND WILL ALWAYS ROUND UP.)

"Do you know that for every one of our Basket Weaving 110 classes you sleep through, you're costing yourself \$20?"

The key to negating this tactic is to focus on your mantra. Centre on the credit. Remember, you're not paying for individual classes. You're paying for the end result, a credit towards your degree. And, assuming that you pass the class, your credit will have cost the same tuition as the person who sat in the front row for every session. If you point out to your friends this fact enough, and with the right amount of arrogant superiority, eventually they'll stop questioning your methods. It's likely that they'll stop talking with you or associating with you at all; this works out perfectly, as it makes it easier for you to nap during classes without the distraction.

University is a fairly structured institution, and there are a number of rules and processes that you're not going to be able to avoid. However, you're not completely without influence. Not only can you choose the environment that you will be in, but you can also change how you react within that environment, as first noted by psychologist Sigmund Freud. (Or someone like that. I skipped all of my PSYCH 104 classes.)