Part I
Getting Started With College
How Did your Story Start?
Student Motivation Level

I will be the agent of change!

Let’s clear some confusion

Rym Z. Wenkstern
Then

Now
“I just want to get my degree and get out”

Rym Z. Wenkstern

You are not here to get a diploma
You are here to acquire unique traits and skills

Rym Z. Wenkstern
“I have a better chance of getting my dream job and getting rich if I have a college degree”

Rym Z. Wenkstern

Yeah, right ...
You are not here to get a specific job or to get rich.

Less than a third of college graduates end up employed in a field directly equivalent to their major.
A few words about your Professors

On registering to classes
A good professor is:

1. Prepared
2. Varies instructional techniques
3. Positive
4. Has Standards and holds High expectations
5. Fair
6. Has a sense of Humor
7. Respects Students
8. Cultivates a Sense of Belonging
9. Admits Mistakes
10. Excellent communicator.
The things your Professor expects from you

You are as sincerely committed to your learning
Go to class
Do not use your laptop in class
Hand In Assignments on Time
Show Respect
Participate and be curious
Establish a positive relationship
Show up during office hours
Do NOT negotiate your grades
Do not send too many emails
The things your Professor won’t tell you

What you should do for yourself
Find A Mentor

Network

Take a break from school. Find a job or an internship

Facts your college degree didn’t prepare you for when graduating
Choose something you love and your won’t have to work for the rest of your life

Confucius
How Did your Story Start?
Why a PhD?
Then

Now
Seven Ph.D. Myths

1. Ph.D = Intelligence
2. A Ph.D. won’t suit me
3. A Ph.D. is not for me. My GPA is not high enough
4. University rankings are really important when choosing where to study
5. The purpose of a Ph.D. is to write a dissertation
6. I have to pick my research topic first, then my supervisor
7. Ph.D. only leads to Academia
What you should focus on the 1st year

Pass your QEs
Visit one lab per semester
Pick a supervisor
Getting started on your Ph.D. research

Defining the Problem is 50% of the work
An approximate answer to the right problem is worth a great deal more than an exact answer to an approximate problem

John Tukey

Finding the Solution: the next 50%

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If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn’t be called RESEARCH

Do NOT be discouraged
“IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT’S DONE.”

-NELSON MANDELA

The things your supervisor expects from you
On writing papers

Be PATIENT, it is a process
Write paper 30% → Desk reject
Initial Review 55% → Reject
Revise & Resubmit → Re-Review → Conditional Accept
Submit paper ← Accept

"THE Loop"

The mistakes you will make

Rym Z. Wenkstern
Final notes

Your life in college is a journey
Dream **BIG**

Think outside the box and when you are knocked down
Get back Up and **Fight**!

Thank you and the Best of Luck!