

## Study methods: Which will you choose to get that A?

### Early Bird Special: getting it done

By Millie Carter  
STAFF WRITER

After the day's classes are done, I trudge back to my room like any other student. All I want to do is hang out with friends and play that brand new video game that just came out today. I want to throw my backpack on my bed and forget that homework ever existed.

But I don't. I write down each assignment in the order it is due on a bright pink sticky-note, and then I sit down and get to work. I consider myself a proactive student, and procrastination my enemy.

Maybe it's the sick satisfaction I get from crossing out the research paper on that obnoxiously neon sticky-note a week before it is due. Maybe it's obsessive compulsive disorder.

Either way, knocking out assignments is worth the grueling hours each night to make way for a free weekend.

It is especially worth it when you know that, come Sunday morning, you will be asleep until noon. Meanwhile, friends wake up at eight to deal with the consequences of their procrastination.

Think about how much you won't have to cram in at the last second if work is completed the first few nights it is assigned.

The dreaded research paper that sits at number two on the sticky-note can be edited multiple times. Papers and take-home quizzes will be much more thought out and could lead to better grades.

That saying, "the early bird gets the worm?" It definitely applies to proactive students.

Study earlier, head to the library on Monday night, begrudgingly tell your friends that no, you cannot go play Modern Warfare 3. Your grades (and your parents) will thank you for it. Mine did.

### Procrastination for the win!

By Rory Molleda  
STAFF WRITER

Eight-to-ten page research paper due in two weeks, so I have plenty of time to get several sources and write a little bit each day so I don't feel rushed or overloaded, right?

Wrong.

That's what I should be saying to myself when I am assigned any kind of paper or project, but it never happens. Regardless of the countless lectures from my parents and different teachers from middle school to college about getting a head start on my work, I never seem to listen.

The official Rory Molleda method for writing a paper includes starting as late as possible, checking Facebook

and Twitter as often as possible, getting little to no sleep, and not doing many revisions.

But the best part is you can use this method for any type of homework.

I perform much better when under pressure. And my theory is that everyone can learn to use this method to their advantage. For example, when doing a reading for a class because you know you have a quiz, why do it a week in advance? By doing it the night before, there's a better chance you will not forget the material and will do better on the quiz.

The same principle applies when trying to study for an exam. Going over the whole study guide the night before the exam

### Meeting in the middle

By Colleen Gonzalez  
STAFF WRITER

Why not have the best of both worlds when it comes to studying?

If you tend to fall in the middle of getting work done early or waiting until the absolute last minute to write that 10 page paper (like me) then why not make your procrastination work for you by building it into your schedule?

When I get assigned a paper or a project, I map out when I can get enough work done so I can have some time to relax and watch a movie on Netflix or spend a few hours on Facebook. The key is to manage your time; advice we all receive in our first year at Guilford so we wouldn't have to pull all-nighters.

For example, on Monday you look at your planner and see you have 40 pages of reading due the next day, a paper due on Thursday, and an article due Saturday night. There is plenty of time for you to get all your work done and goof off at the same time.

First thing is to get the reading done since that is due the next day. As for the paper, you can spread this out between Tuesday and Wednesday by doing half one day and half the other.

By doing it in sections, you don't feel as pressured as you would if you did it all at once.

Finally for the article, make sure you use the days in between to get what you need, so if you do get down to the wire, at least you have something to write about.

Of course everyone is different. Some people work best under pressure while others feel better getting things done ahead of time.

Although the latter seems to be the best because then you have all the time in the world to do what you want to do, we might as well get real and admit that, as college students, we like to slack off.

However by making your procrastination work to your advantage, you can catch up on much needed sleep, hang out with your friends and get through the semester in one piece.

means there's less time for you to forget what you studied.

It is also very important to surround yourself with as many distractions as possible when avoiding your work. Because of my ADD, even the post-it notes on my desk can distract me for a good five to ten minutes.

A television and the Internet are a must. A few friends playing video games or watching a movie could work too.

Although leaving everything to the last minute might give me a few more headaches than I would like, my grades are rarely affected.

There is always a little room for improvement but I'm nowhere near failing out of school because I procrastinate on my work.



## CAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

### Contributions are legal bribes, not charity donations

With the GOP nomination swinging full force, there's a lot of talk going on. A whole lot of talk. And when politicians talk, they gesture elaborately, painting wildly vivid portraits of themselves and others.



By Travis Linville  
STAFF WRITER

But when they want to hide the significance of their actions or beliefs, they resort to colorless doublespeak — the adversary of open communication.

As a politician, would you want people to know that you received \$300,000 from mortgage broker Freddie Mac, notorious for its role in our financial state? Or would this be a good time for some well-polished doublespeak?

Because according to NPR, Newt Gingrich received that amount from Freddie in 2006.

Gingrich claimed that he never lobbied — not for Freddie, not for anyone. The mortgage colossus approached him as a "historian" for "strategic advice."

I confess I don't know much about a historian's livelihood, but that sounds like a truly impressive salary for one.

And even if Gingrich did not lobby Congress, I feel like we can safely assume he had some interest in Freddie's financial well-being. After all, if they sank, Gingrich's paychecks would sink with them.

Then Bloomberg News reported that the amount paid was closer to \$1.6 or \$1.8 million over an eight-year span.

Media call this hidden marshmallow a "contribution."

As fun as singling out and picking on Gingrich is, we cannot condemn him as the sole acceptor of shady money.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Mitt Romney has raised over \$30 million for his GOP campaign; Ron Paul has raised over \$10 million; and President Obama has raised about \$89 million.

It takes many contributions to build those numbers. But where does the money come from?

Surely some unselfish people fund politicians for unselfish reasons. But pure reasons are often in short supply.

Remember the financial crisis? Remember Goldman Sachs? Subpoenaed in June 2011 for its practice of selling bad mortgages?

The Center for Responsive Politics reports that Goldman Sachs' affiliates have hedged bets with big donations for Obama and Romney; over \$1,000,000 and over \$360,000 respectively.

They call these contributions.

But let's be real. Contribution sugar-coats the word bribe.

Campaigns are not charities. People do not contribute to campaigns without hope for a return on their investment. That is just silly.

Investors get influence, power, and reimbursement when their walking money-bag takes office. Contributors become politicians through legal bribes, enabled by doublespeak.

Doublespeak runs amok in politics: torture becomes "enhanced coercive interrogation technique;" poor becomes "economically disadvantaged;" bribe becomes "campaign contribution."

Doublespeak makes it easy to miss what really happens in politics.

So can we please stop calling them contributions or donations or whatever pretty-sounding-and-obscure name? Next, politicians will probably call them "quantitative voluntary endowments."

They call it a contribution, but no amount of sugar-coating can mask this turd that politicians try to hide.