

Story Idea 9/12
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Jour 199

Topic: Undergraduate Residence Hall Meal Plans

Two weeks in, some students are having regrets over what meal plan they chose. It has probably been one of the most common topics I've heard people discuss through residence halls. Is it hard to change? Which meal plan is most popular? Why do some students choose one over the other? Is 57 and other options popular with cafe credits? Also, the prices differ drastically between plans and are people even using all of their meal and cafe credits? Best bang for your buck?

I think people care about this because it is something all freshman can relate too. Everyone eats, and most people are getting used to having a set quota on your food and it will be interesting to see how well it is working.

People to talk to: Students, somebody from the University (Housing director? Dining hall director?), parents, people who work at the dining halls.

-Krystal Grace: Assistant Director for Residential Life-Student Dining & Residential Programs and Conferences & Special Events-----grace1@illinois.edu

-Tricia Wolfe Anton: Associate Director of University Housing for Residential Life—panton@illinois.edu

Potential problem: Is this too small or trivial for a story?

If unable to get numbers on who has which plan, I think story could still work with people having regrets and changing plans etc.

Sample Questions:

Why did you choose the meal plan you currently have? Is it working well? If so, why?

Are the meal plans designed for a specific type of person?

What meal plan is the best bang for your buck?

Is getting a meal plan and eating at the dining hall worth it?
(maybe find someone who doesn't use dining hall, eats elsewhere)