A Roommate Meeting Resource and Guide

This outline can provide guidance on how to have conversations between roommates. Being able to address common roommate concerns can assist you and your roommates in having a successful time at Utah State University. Have fun getting to know your roommates and helping each other thrive this year!

How to Use this Guide:

✓ **Work Together:** Negotiating, by definition, involves at least two people. One person cannot and should not “lay down” rules for everyone. Please discuss and come up with solutions and expectations together.

✓ **Set Aside Time:** Negotiating how to live together is important and worthwhile. It deserves your time and attention. As your negotiating and communication skills develop with time, you will be more able to address issues appropriately in the future.

✓ **Write It Down:** Writing things down is an important part of the process of living with others. It actually helps to ensure that agreements, standards, and solutions are met and respected.

✓ **Be Open to Renegotiation:** Remember that all solutions to roommate conflict or issues may take time and a couple of tries to get right. Don’t just give up. Instead, try to renegotiate a solution that fits all parties for that particular time.

Things to Consider:

Below are a list of topics and questions that would be appropriate to address in a roommate meeting. Be honest and respectful in all roommate negotiations.

- **Cleanliness:** How would you each describe your level of cleanliness? How often should cleaning occur? What tools could work in your room/apartment to help keep each other accountable for cleaning (a.k.a. chore charts)? How long can dirty dishes or food be left out? Who takes out the trash?

- **Sleeping:** When do you each go to bed and wake up? What time is too late or too early to receive calls, watch t.v., etc.? How do you respectfully address the need to go to bed? Can you sleep with lights on? Are weekends different from weekdays? Should naps be treated differently or the same?

- **Borrowing:** What items in your space can be shared? What items can be borrowed if specifically asked? What items are off-limits? In which ways should roommates ask to borrow items (a.k.a. phone, text, notes, etc.)?

- **Guests and Personal Privacy:** Are members of any gender allowed to visit bedrooms or apartments? Are there specific times that visitors are allowed to visit? Are visitors allowed while studying is taking place? Are guests allowed to stay overnight? How do you want to communicate with each other when guests are coming over? How can each roommate address feelings of discomfort with guest behavior?

- **Special Considerations and Roommate Relations:** Who buys toilet paper and/or cleaning supplies? Will grocery shopping be done together? If there are any problems in the future, how do you want roommates to address them? Do you each have communication pet peeves (a.k.a. passive aggressive notes, posts on social media without permission, etc.)? What type of social interactions do you expect to have with your roommates? What should be the first steps taken if someone is not holding to standards or agreements set by roommates?