

The Weston Residence Hall Project

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Business and Technical Writing 250 Project Proposal (Draft)

Our Mission

By studying the Residence Hall, Weston, we hope to explore the activity system that students are immersed in. Through an analysis of the learning community, “Weston Exploration,” we will better understand how Weston Hall functions on a daily basis. Weston Hall is currently geared towards one of the University’s largest majors, Liberal Arts and Sciences General. Since each member of this team has experience life in one of the Residence Halls across campus, we feel that our prior knowledge will help in breaking down the activity system into its six components. However, none of the our group members had the opportunity to live in Weston and experience the “Weston Exploration” learning community. Hopefully, our lack of knowledge in this department will drive us to learn and acquire as much information as possible. Prior to beginning our study of Weston we knew that the Hall was popular amongst sophomore returning to the dorms for their second year. Additionally, Weston has always had a reputation as a very social dorm on campus. We chose the Residence Halls, specifically Weston, because this Activity System affects every individual who attends the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Also, a good experience within the Residence Halls can shape a student’s next four years of college life.

Our Plan of Action

Our plan to analyze Weston focuses largely around the Weston Hall Bylaws. We also plan on conducting numerous interviews with Weston Resident Advisors, as well as Resident Directors, as well as current and past Weston students will be given a short survey. Additionally, some will be asked to participate in a brief interview that will discuss their experience while at Weston and how they feel the hall can be better suited for its individuals. Much of our research will also come from observations we will make as bystanders. Also, various libraries across campus contain information very essential to understanding Weston. Internet resources contain valuable information for us to use extensively. By writing this analysis of Weston hall, many people will benefit from our research, specifically, university students, prospective students (transfers), and incoming freshmen who would like to learn more about the University.

Our Resources

We plan on taking full advantage of the Internet resources available to us, as well as our surveys. We understand that interviews can only give us so much information and we believe that by diversifying our information gathering we will be able to understand such a complex activity system. The University of Illinois website contains a plethora of information about the school and specifically the buildings within it. Also, by searching the University libraries who hope to find some books that may explain how Weston hall came to be one of the school’s most famous dorms.

Our Benefits

We believe that a document of this type is essential for anyone who has been apart of the University of Illinois. The study focuses on informing those who do not have much knowledge on the Residence Halls here at U of I, what life within them can be like. Moreover, by providing

this information for prospective students to read, perhaps it will allow them to make a more informed decision as to which Residence hall can best fit their needs. In addition to benefiting students, this piece will also help the University of Illinois analyze itself. By showing how effective the Weston Exploration learning community is, U of I will be able to use the information to help implement change to further strengthen the program. The University of Illinois is huge in population and it would be too difficult for them to find weaknesses within a program as specific as Weston Exploration. It is our hope that by better understanding the University community people can figure out if Weston is for them.

Our Conclusion

As you can see, the Weston Hall activity system is incredibly complex. From the RA's, to the students, to the staff workers/janitors, every individual plays a vital role in the way Weston functions. Also we hope that by completing such a daunting task, we will be able to help students explore their options for living at the University of Illinois. Finally, perhaps by understanding the learning community within Weston, and discovering its effectiveness the University of Illinois may choose to implement more/similar/and even better programs through its huge residential living environment.

Our Timeline

Tasks	Start	Duration	End
Proposal Letter	4/1/2006	9	4/10/2006
Formal Report	4/11/2006	10	4/21/2006
Conference Report (1)	4/4/2006	3	4/7/2006
Conference Report (2)	4/23/2006	3	4/26/2006
Presentation	4/24/2006	7	5/1/2006
Team Evaluation	5/3/2006	2	5/5/2006
Gather Information	4/10/2006	9	4/19/2006
Setup Interviews	4/10/2006	3	4/13/2006
Interviews	4/14/2006	5	4/19/2006