The K-State First Guide to College Student Success: The Essentials for First-Year Students at Kansas State University

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Tara Coleman, Gregory Eiselein, Kylie Kinley, Emily Lehning, Mandi McKinley, and Mariya Vaughan
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CHAPTER 1
HISTORY AND TRADITIONS
HISTORY

K-State: Your first history lesson

Our beloved university began as Bluemont Central College, and opened to its first students in 1860. Settlers in the area were well-educated and felt that a college was an important addition. Serving first as a primary and preparatory school for students underprepared for college, Bluemont College was privately run until 1863. At that time, Kansas had already become a state (January 29, 1861—be ready to celebrate Kansas Day next semester!) and had accepted the Morrill Act, which allotted each state 30,000 acres of land for each member of the House and Senate. The land, or proceeds from selling the land, could be used to start a college. With 90,000 acres, the state of Kansas was ready to establish its first college, following the provisions set forth by the Morrill Act:

“…the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.”

To put it in everyday terms, the Morrill Act aimed to create colleges that focused on agriculture, engineering, and military training, while not excluding other areas of study, including liberal arts, which had long been the focus for higher education. The goal was to offer educational opportunities to a wider variety of students. These democratic ideals set the stage for the culture and feel of K-State then and now.

At this time, Bluemont College was experiencing financial difficulties. Its board offered 100 acres, a building and library volumes to the State of Kansas. The State accepted on February 16, 1863—K-State’s official Founder’s Day. On March 3rd of the same year, the legislature passed an act establishing Kansas State Agricultural College.

Because of the land “granted” to the state through the Morrill Act, KSAC became a “land grant college”. The first class of 52 students was exactly 50% male, 50% female, and included studies in mental and moral sciences, mathematics and natural sciences, and music. (Fun Fact: Recent enrollment counts have males at 50.6% and females at 49.4%—very little variation from the inaugural class in 1863!) From the beginning, our history proves our dedication to being a co-educational and racially integrated institution.

KSAC became Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science in 1931, and Kansas State University of Agriculture and Applied Science in 1959. Buildings have been added, razed, burned, and rebuilt. Our mascot started out as a black Labrador named Boscoe (no relation to our current Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Pat Bosco, but what a coincidence!) Later, K-State used a real wildcat named Touchdown, and, finally, adopted Willie in 1947. Willie has also changed significantly. You can see the many faces of Willie and his full history here: www.k-state.com/s/1173/social.aspx?sid=1173&gid=1&pgid=411.

Throughout the many changes that K-State has seen throughout the years, there are a few things that remain the same. We have developed many
traditions that honor our history and will continue to shape our future.

TRADITIONS

At K-State, we do FRIENDLY
Can’t find the building where you have class starting in t-minus two minutes? Ask that person walking by you on the sidewalk. We have all needed help, and our friendliness and willingness to help is what makes us K-Staters.

K-Staters are known for their friendly demeanor. Open a door for a fellow classmate or professor. Direct a visiting family fumbling with a map. Walk the group of new-first-year students, standing in the quad with a bewildered look, to the building they need, then sprint to your own class. Extraordinary? Nope, just the K-State way!

At K-State, we do PURPLE.
Purple Pride ice cream at Call Hall dairy bar. One of 30-plus flavors, all made by students!

Purple Power Play at the Park. Join more than 20,000 students, alumni and fans for food, fireworks and more at the pep rally held the Thursday and Friday evenings before our first home football game.

Purple Masque Theatre, home to student-directed performances, will host its final season in East Stadium this year. See what the future holds as New Purple Masque Theatre moves into the west side of Old Stadium for Fall 2015.

Purple! Purple shirts, purple shoes, purple bags, purple water bottles, purple pens. If it can be made in purple, you will find it here. Wear your purple with pride!

At K-State, we do the WABASH.
After a fire in the 1960’s left the music department with only one piece of music, “The Wabash Cannonball” has become an easily recognizable tune that rouses any K-State crowd. Find a short video history here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDBAf6yPZSO. Stand up, clap your hands, and get ready to WABASH. You can view a great video and start practicing here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMOQ2wU6vGk.

Another great tradition occurs at basketball games. Students at men’s basketball games tear up newspapers into tiny bits, throwing them into the air at the introduction of the home team. You can watch how to do it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUBoa-89m6Q.

At K-State, we are FAMILY.
Invite your family to join you on Saturday, September 27, 2014 for our 86th Annual K-State Family Day! You can view details here: www.k-state.edu/familyday/.

Parent and Family Association helps families of K-State students feel connected to the University. Access to a hotline and invitations to family events on campus help our extended family stay close wherever they are.

Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Need we say more?

At K-State, we do GREAT FOOD.
Remember that Call Hall ice cream? You can also get your fill of fresh-made cinnamon rolls and hot cocoa (among other mouthwatering goodies) at T-H-E BAKERY in the lobby of Derby Dining Center. Each Wednesday during the school year, the Bakery Science Club hosts a bake sale where you can stock up on fresh baked bread, monster cookies, brownies and more. The chocolate milk at the residence hall dining centers is also a student favorite.

Off-campus, you will find student favorites Varsity Donuts, Radina’s Coffeehouse, and Taco Lucha, as well as many other local eateries and shopping, in nearby Aggieville.

At K-State, we do OPEN HOUSE.
Every year, for one Saturday in April, the entire campus throws open the doors and welcomes over 20,000 visitors to see all of the cool projects students and faculty have been working on all year. See robots in action, watch a glassblowing experiment, ride a weed-eater powered bicycle and enjoy free food throughout campus. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 11, 2015 and look for oppor-
opportunities to get involved in your department and student organizations.

**At K-State we CELEBRATE STUDENTS.**
Check in with #kstate, @KansasStateUniversity and the K-State Today emailed directly to your inbox daily to see what is accolades your fellow students are earning.

Become part of the action by getting involved in research, taking leadership in one of our 475-plus student organizations, or serving your residence hall, sorority or fraternity through committee work.

**At K-State, we LEARN TOGETHER.**
In your K-State First First-Year Seminar or CAT Community, you will find that gone are the days of lecture after lecture. From co-curricular activities that have you rappelling down a cliff to walk the history of the Overland Trail, to hands-on activities side-by-side with your professor, everyone is engaged in academic endeavors.

Each year, a committee of students, faculty and staff choose a common book for the campus. This year, you received—and hopefully read!—your own copy of this year’s book, *The Ghost Map* by Steven Johnson. People all over campus have read this book, and you will be hearing more about it in your classes, at campus-wide activities, and when Steven Johnson visits our campus! (See KSBN chapter for more in-depth information).

Research opportunities are plentiful for undergraduates, and it’s not just for scientists! Work with a professor to study sustainable energy, work with preschoolers at the Hoeflin Stone House Child Care Center, or dream big in the Electronics Design Laboratory. In fact, K-State is working towards being a Top 50 Research Institute by 2025. Learn more about Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities, and Discovery and see what each college offers here: [www.k-state.edu/2025/initiatives/rscad/](http://www.k-state.edu/2025/initiatives/rscad/).

Take advantage of the numerous opportunities for co-curricular learning offered throughout campus. Whether it is a Landon Lecture ([www.k-state.edu/lectures/landon/](http://www.k-state.edu/lectures/landon/)), a class field trip, or a comedy act sponsored by UPC (see the UPC line-up of presentations, concerts, and more at [www.k-state.edu/upc](http://www.k-state.edu/upc)) you will learn just as much outside of the classroom as you will in it—though it is still necessary to attend those classes!

**At K-State, we SERVE.**
K-State Proud, a student-led fundraising campaign, has raised more than $830,000 over eight years to help fellow students in need. Students raise money through selling t-shirts to wear at a specified home basketball game and through student donations. That money is used to help fellow students who are facing a hardship and need help in order to stay enrolled at K-State.

Students help students, and students help others. HandsOn K-State places students in many service and volunteer opportunities around campus and in the community. Student Program Coordinators are available to help you find opportunities connected to your interests provide service-learning training when necessary. If you are a service-minded individual, add HandsOn K-State to your bucket list this first semester.

Join a School of Leadership Studies International Service Team to serve abroad. You can master a language, gain leadership experience, and develop cultural appreciation during a summer of service.

Extend your leadership beyond campus through involvement in the Manhattan Good Neighbor program. Partnering with the City of Manhattan, Riley County Police Department, USD 383, Manhattan Housing Authority and others, you can help maintain safe, clean and welcoming neighborhoods for University students.

**At K-State, we INCLUDE.**
From our first days as KSAC, inclusion has been the K-State way. Throughout our history, we have maintained a near 50/50 enrollment of men and women. Our first black alum graduated in 1899, and presently one of every 6 students is black, Hispanic, American Indian, or multiracial.

Military men and women are part of our K-State family. Our Army ROTC program earned K-State a designation as a Top 30 College for Military
Students in Military Advanced Education Magazine. The Air Force ROTC program continues to commission excellent officers, and the campus building which houses military sciences has been renamed General Richard B. Myers Hall after one of AFROTC’s distinguished alums.

Every year, military men, women and families are honored at various sporting events on campus. In fact, athletic director John Currie received the Outstanding Civilian Service award, one of the highest awards a civilian can be given by the U.S. Army.

Thank you for joining the K-State family. We hope that participating in some of the time-honored traditions becomes your K-State bucket list!

Bibliography


First Impressions

I was in an English class early on in my college career where I stayed pretty taciturn. I sat near the back of the class and didn’t say much the first couple class meetings. In the coming class meetings, I kept drifting back to the same seats, to the reserved attitude, and I did this because I had made it the path of least resistance. It was easier to keep acting the same stick-in-the-mud way than to suddenly change and act actually more like myself. I’m typically not that reticent. I had other classes that same semester where I went through class chipper and talkative because I had behaved that way from the start. I felt much more comfortable in those classes and had a much more satisfying learning experience overall.

So my final advice would be to act interested from the start. Get interested in the subject, in the thoughts of your classmates and professors, and put yourself out there. It’ll likely be uncomfortable at first, but you’ll set a positive pattern for yourself, making it easier in the long run to be an active, interested learner, improving the classroom environment for not only yourself but also your classmates and your professors.

– Dillon Rockrohr*

*Contained in each speech bubble within the book are quotes from students that detail some of their experiences.
CHAPTER 2
COLLEGE STUDENT ETIQUETTE
INTRODUCTION: THINGS TO KNOW

Three Important Truths

1. Certain things are expected of you in college. The sooner you know how to meet and surpass those expectations, the more success you’ll achieve.

2. People judge you by your manners. Develop good ones.

3. Likeability gets you a long way. If you respect others and respect yourself, you will be more likeable. You can’t please everyone, but you can respect everyone.

Before You Even Show Up, Start Thinking Like an Adult

Be the adult. Even if you don’t feel like one yet; even if you don’t want to; even if it’s hard. You may regret acting irresponsibly or entitled or short-sighted like a teenager, but you will never regret being responsible and gracious and patient like an adult. How do you become an adult? It’s a life-long process, and you definitely know people who haven’t gotten there, but here’s some advice to get started.

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Adults ask for help.

Ask your professor, your roommate, your residence hall director. Worried about how you get your mail? Can’t find your classroom on the first day? Ask someone. Can’t find research? Librarians EXIST to help you. So do most of the people at K-State. They work here because they enjoy students. Don’t ever worry about if asking questions makes you look stupid. Your peers aren’t looking at you. They’re worried about how they can find the answers to their own questions.

Adults keep their commitments.

Can’t keep up with all of them? Choose a few and commit 100% instead of flaking.

Adults have good manners.

Manners aren’t about being snobby or keeping your elbows off the table. Manners are about being considerate, respectful, and honest with the people around you. College is an unfamiliar world, but you and the people around you shouldn’t have to feel uncomfortable as you navigate that unfamiliar world. The following advice will help you become comfortable with your new life here at K-State.

Professionalism

“So the first thing is, start practicing on never saying ‘um’.”

I’m sure multiple students have heard this suggestion from English teachers throughout their high school career but it is actually an important piece of advise to follow. When talking with professors, friends, coworkers, or anyone that you are trying to make a good first impression on, do not use the word “um” (or “like” for that matter. In fact “like” is worse). Without using filler words such as like and um, you can come across as more confident, intelligent, and believable. This is most important in speeches and job interviews and it’s best to start practicing early than learning this lesson the hard way.

– Darrah Tinkler
**RESIDENTIAL LIFE**

**Community**

Living with hundreds of other people in the same building and sharing a room and bathroom is hard work, so think of your residence hall community as a job. Your community members are your bosses. Act respectfully and considerately so they don’t want to fire you. Often roommate conflicts begin with small considerations that can easily be extended - using earbuds instead of blasting your favorite song, taking visitors to the lobby or other common spaces, keeping your messiness to a minimum.

It is not uncommon to have minor disagreements or moments of uncomfortableness as you set the ground rules for living in your space. Its great practice to have conversations with your roommate about what each of you needs to be successful. If you’re having a problem with your roommate or community, finding the right information to solve that problem is essential. Often, the person who has that information is outside of the situation. Your Resident Assistant or Resident Life Coordinator are two options for helping you mediate any conflicts, and they can help you build your new community.

Great communities are made up of people who contribute. Consider serving as a leader on your floor or in your hall. The opportunities are many and you are sure to find a way to apply your leadership skills through the Association of Residence Halls, National Residence Hall Honorary, cultural and diversity advocates, housing and dining ambassadors, hall governing board or judicial board. You will gain great experience and it will help your voice be heard.

**Don’t be a mooch.**

Be considerate of other people’s time, stuff, and money. If you’re low on cash, pay the other person back later that day, if possible. If you borrow a towel or a shirt from your roommate, return it promptly (and wash it beforehand – ew). If you make a commitment, even just to hang out, show up on time. No one wants to be the person everyone quits inviting over because of that person’s extreme moochiness.

**THE CLASSROOM**

**Go to Class**

This isn’t a secret. Showing up is essential to success in college.

*K-State Tuition (ONLY tuition –no fees, etc) Fun Facts:*

- In-state students pay $18.27 per each class session for a MWF schedule.
- Out-of-state students pay $48.47 per each class session for a MWF schedule.
- For a TU schedule, in-state students pay $27.11, and out-of-state students spend $72.71 per class session.
- Feel like sleeping in? Pretend you’re throwing a $20 in the trash as you hit snooze.

Also, disappearing helps no one. Family member sick? Chronically ill? Tell your instructor and tell K-State’s Office of Student Life.
Dress for the occasion.
Pajamas/yoga pants/gray sweat pants tell your instructor and your classmates that you see class as a distraction from your busy life of working out or sleeping or playing video games instead of as your main priority. If you’re on the way to the Rec, pack a change of clothes. Your instructor does not expect a suit or a ball gown; jeans and a K-State t-shirt are adequate. No one wears pajama bottoms to Bill Snyder Family Stadium; your classroom deserves even more respect. (Note: However, just because you wear body paint to football games doesn’t mean you should wear *that* to class.)

Don’t pack up before class is over.
Even if you have to get to another class across campus, this is rude and distracting. Essential information about upcoming homework assignments or exams comes in the last few minutes of class, so you’re not just setting yourself up to miss something, but you’re signaling to the professor that you do not care. Plus, the sound of zippers zipping is loud and contagious. Don’t be Patient Zero.

Don’t ask, “Can we get out early?” – even on Fridays.
Your instructor will think you’re being whiney (because you are), and you’ll lose respect.

Don’t compare grades in class.
Your grade is private. If you want to discuss your grade with a classmate or a friend, that’s your business, but don’t do it when the entire class (including your instructor) can hear your joy or your dismay.

Don’t ask, “How do I get an A?”
First of all, the instructor doesn’t “give” grades, you earn them. Instead, ask something along the lines of, “How can I learn the most?” If you’re worried about a paper, see if the professor will meet with you a few weeks before it’s due and go over it with you. This means you have to be prepared, but if you truly want the “Excellent” designation rather than the Average (a C) or an Above Average (a B), you have to earn it.

Don’t follow your professor to his/her next class.
The ten minutes between classes are crucial for your instructor to prepare for his next class, so she or he cannot always give you his full attention. Make an appointment. You’ll both get more out of the encounter.

When to Stay Home from Class
If you have the stomach flu and are throwing up in the trash can in the hallway and your classmates then feel prompted to call out their sympathies from their desks (this is from real life, BTW), you need to stay home. You never have to give your instructor the gritty details. A simple, “I’m not feeling well, and I will not be in class today” is sufficient information.

Avoid alarm clock errors
Always set an alarm for the right time of day. It doesn’t do you much good to set an alarm to 9:00 pm when your class is at 9:30 am.
– Cooper Clawson

Eat Discreetly or Leave the Food at Home
Bringing Panda Express from the union to class every day may get on your classmates’ nerves. It might make more money for Panda, and they’ll appreciate it, but no one else will. Stick to foods that are quiet and smell-less. Think granola bars rather than orange chicken.

Technology Use in the Classroom
Turn off your cell phone. Don’t check it throughout the class, don’t text, and seriously do not talk on it. If you use a laptop (and check and make sure you instructor allows laptops), take notes instead of surfing the web or getting on social media. Learning is social just like Facebook is, and you will distract your peers with your open laptop screen. You can kill the learning buzz. After all, you aren’t just in class to learn the material; you are honing your ability to focus on a topic and/or a person for at least an hour at a time, which is something you will need to do for the rest of your life. Are you bored? That can be the professor’s fault, but most of the time it’s your own. You can choose to engage with the lecture and the material, or you can choose to sit and think about what
you’re eating for lunch or what you’re doing on Saturday. You’ll get more out of the $18.27 you are paying for each class session (MWF). Plus, you’ll fulfill the overall goal of spending four years of your life in college: learn the most possible.

**Cell Phones**

I would advise freshmen to make sure that they have their phone off or on vibrate while in class. My first semester I had my cell phone go off during a Chemistry I lecture. Not only was it very embarrassing, but it also disrupted the entire class.

- Erica Schmitz

**Group Project Etiquette**

Everyone has a nightmarish group project story. Working in a small group with nearly total strangers can be hard, but the ability to work well with others is a life skill that you can use to impress employers and become a person other people actually want to be around. Come to the group meetings on time, take responsibility for your share of the work (don’t be bossy and don’t be lazy), and be considerate, honest, and respectful of your classmates.

**Tips for Successful Out-of-Classroom Learning**

1. If you attend a lecture, show up on time and stick through the question and answer session. The lecture is not over yet, and leaving is rude. This is often when the speaker is the most engaging, so you might enjoy it even more than the lecture.

2. Never use your cell phone (not even to check the time) during plays, lectures, concerts, or film screenings. In the case of live performances, often, they can see you being rude and looking at your phone. Think how much work your fellow K-State students or the visiting artists have dedicated to provide you with this experience. That dedication deserves your full attention.

3. Show up on time to tutoring sessions, advisor meetings, professor meetings, study groups, and basically any other commitment you make. Come prepared with questions or a draft of your paper or your ideal class schedule.

**Be Prepared for Class**

Bring your book/text to class. Never be the person who didn’t take the time to print the article or who has to uncomfortably position themselves within seeing distance of your peer’s textbook. It’s not that we all don’t have those days where we forget or grabbed the wrong book but just do your best to be intentional about 100% showing up to classes and that means bringing the needed materials. If you want to have great conversation and engage critically with the readings, it works best to have them in front of you!

- Lois Wetzel

**Professor-Student Courtesy**

“When you see a professor, give a polite nod. Also, take your headphones off when you enter the classroom (especially if you have to walk past the professor to get to your seat).”

- Connor Smith

**Academic Life**

Students, one piece of advice that you need to remember is to NEVER be afraid to talk to your instructors/professors about what you need help on. In my first semester as a Freshman, I did not feel as though I needed to visit my instructors during office hours because I felt as though I could receive a good grade without any help. No matter what your GPA is, reaching out to your instructors will always help you become a better student. Communication is a powerful tool for a college student who is aspired to become successful when acquiring a future career. The first thing you need to do when you receive homework (or when preparing for an exam) is to go to your professor’s office hours or information sessions. Do not be afraid to ask for help.”

- Sterling Muse
Email Etiquette

The perfect email has:

• Specific subject line
• A respectful greeting
• Clear message body with a neutral or friendly tone
• Specific signature with student’s name and the name and date of the class

Example:

SUBJECT: Absent from class today

Dear Professor Smith,

I missed class today. Could you tell me what the homework for Thursday is?

All the best,
Rachel Student
ENGL100
TU 9:30

A bad email has:

• No greeting
• Assumes class was not important
• No specific signature

Example:

Did we do anything important today?

Rachel

A REALLY bad email has:

• An impolite greeting
• Too much information about why you missed class
• No signature at all (but with an email as bad as this, who would blame you for preferring to stay anonymous?)

Example:

Yo,

I was hungover this morning and decided class wasn’t worth my time. Did we do anything important?

Another really bad email has:

• An impolite greeting
• Accusatory tone with capital letters
• No specific signature

Example:

Hey,

The grade I got on my paper was stupid, and WE NEED TALK ASAP.

Rachel Student

Proper way to email your professor about your grade:

• Even if you feel your grade is unfair, you need to be an adult about it. To review, that means you need to be honest, considerate, and respectful.

Example:

SUBJECT: Discussion of recent paper

Dear Professor,

Could we meet to discuss the grade on my last paper? I’m available on Monday and Wednesday after 1:30 p.m.

Thanks!

Sincerely,
Rachel Student
ENGL100
TU 9:30

Bibliography


CHAPTER 3
COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS
TIME MANAGEMENT

College students are busy.

There are classes and labs to attend, homework to do, projects to finish, papers to write, and exams to study for. There are events on campus, activities in your hall or living group, and meetings for the clubs and organizations you join. The happiest and most successful students also make time for eating well, sleeping through the night, exercising regularly, spending time with friends, and relaxing and having fun. So how do you figure out how to make everything fit into the day, week, or semester? Here are a few tried and true strategies.

1. Make a plan

Get an organizer, planner, app, or calendar, and plan out each hour (or half hour) of the entire week. When will you be attending class? When will you do your reading, preparation, homework, writing, and projects and presentation? When will you be getting about eight hours of sleep each night? When will you eat, exercise, and hang out with friends? When will you be working? Which meetings and campus events will you attend that week? What’s due that week?

The experts recommend studying about two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. For example, if you are enrolled in 14 credit hours, you should plan about 28 hours outside of class each week to complete assignments and study. Most successful students report that beginning the semester with a more rigid and generous study schedule serves them well.

A thoughtfully planned calendar can turn an overwhelming situation into a rich and interesting week that balances work and play, quiet time and socializing, challenge and fun.

Tip: Deliberately overestimate how much time it will take to complete long or important projects. For example, if you think it should take about six hours to complete a paper for your History class, allocate nine hours to finish it. If you finish the assignment in less time than need, you’ll probably be happy about having some unexpected free time. If you underestimate how long it will take, you may find yourself staying up late, skipping a cool movie with friends, or turning in inferior academic work (when you know you could have done much better).

2. Prioritize

Put your time and energy into those efforts that you care most about and those that are most closely connected to your goals. Be aware of deadlines, and do your best to make sure you arrive at events on time and hand in assignments by the due date. But you’ll also want to prioritize important work whose deadline might seem further away at the moment—papers and exams that carry a lot of points, concepts or skills that you’ll need to master to do well in the rest of the class, or topics that are fundamentally important to the career you’re preparing for or the kind of person you want to be.

Careful prioritizing can reduce stress. By deciding what’s important to you and your goals at college, you are often better prepared to say “no” to commitments or obligations of lesser importance for which you really don’t have the time.

Tip: Don’t spend too much time on activities or projects that really don’t matter that much. Gam-
What is information literacy?
Information literacy is knowing when you need information, being able to find the information you need, and then using information effectively.

Why should I care?
We are swimming in a world of information so deep it might as well be the ocean. It’s in books, on the internet, and in the memory banks of our elders. Not all of the information out there is accurate, current, unbiased, or free. How do you know you are accessing quality information for the right purpose?

How do I do it?
Here are some steps to improving your information literacy:

1. Define the problem or task
What are you looking for? If your problem or question is too broad or vague you may be overwhelmed with information or not find anything at all. Take a moment to refine your question. This step will help you focus your search and really zero in on what you need to find.

Question: Does being tall make you a better person? (Better in what ways? How do you define tall?)

Better question: Does being taller than average have advantages in the workplace?

2. Locate information
There are many places to access information: other people, books, journal articles, websites, video, etc. If you aren’t sure where to start, go to the library’s homepage (www.lib.k-state.edu) and use Search It. It’s like Google, but searches for items (books, articles, videos, etc.) the library has access
to physically and electronically.

Remember, not all information is equal. Once you find what you need, it’s up to you to decide if the information is accurate, current, relevant, and unbiased.

3. **Analyze the found information**
   Once you have your information, you need to verify that it’s legit.
   - **Currency:** Check the publication date and determine whether it is sufficiently current for your topic.
   - **Coverage (relevance):** Consider whether the source is relevant to your research and whether it covers the topic adequately for your needs.
   - **Authority:** Discover the credentials of the authors of the source and determine their level of expertise and knowledge about the subject.
   - **Accuracy:** Consider whether the source presents accurate information and whether you can verify that information.
   - **Objectivity (purpose):** Think about the author’s purpose in creating the source and consider how that affects its usefulness to your research.

4. **Back yourself up (a.k.a. cite it)**
   This gives credit to the work you used, provides a paper trail that will help others find the information, and helps you avoid plagiarism.

   Think of it this way, a paper (or an argument) is like an outfit. You put it together using a lot of different designers. A bibliography is your way of giving credit to the designers who made the clothes you used to complete your look. You’re not claiming that you hand sewed each piece, you just knew how to put it together.

**You don’t need to know everything; you just need to know how to find it.**
If you’re not sure where to start, ask a librarian:
www.lib.k-state.edu.

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**WRITING**

**Writing is hard...**

and don’t let anyone tell you differently. Typing, tweeting, and texting are easy because they’re not real writing. In contrast, the process of putting your ideas on paper in a developed, cohesive manner that effectively translates the thoughts in your mind to your reader’s mind is ridiculously hard. This is true whether you are writing a research paper, a love letter, a job application, or anything that has passion, truth, and substance.

Have you labeled yourself a “bad writer”? You can stop doing that because what happened to you in the past does not define your identity as a college-level writer. Writers become good through reading and (surprise!) writing. Good writers aren’t born; students become good writers through the choices they make. As a new college student, you can choose to read the homework, meet with your professor, sign up for a tutoring session, and grow as a writer, or you can choose to keep all of your bad habits and your mediocre writing skills. Students at K-State have become better writers in the first month, after the first semester, or even after four entire years. Their secret? Hard work.

One place that can help you with your writing is no secret at all:

**K-State Writing Center**

Enthusiastic and highly trained tutors will spend 30 minutes helping you brainstorm, develop, or revise your papers. Scheduled, walk-in, and online appointments are all options. These tutoring sessions are FREE, and the writing center is open Monday through Friday in room 122D in the English/Counseling Services Building and on Sunday nights in Hale Library.

Remember, students don’t go to the Writing Center because they are bad writers; they go because they want to become better writers.

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**Studying**

My advice: Find a quiet place to study that is not your room or the library. It is nice to have time to focus and be efficient in a new and exciting place. This is also a good way to explore buildings that you have never been in.

- Kaitlyn Barnes
“It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.”

-Audre Lorde

What does it mean?

What is diversity? It is a word you might hear a lot, but how can we define it in a meaningful way, and how can we integrate it into our lives?

Diversity, in its most basic definition, is simply a group of people with different social and cultural identities working, learning, playing, and living together. You might hear the term diversity together with multiculturalism. Here at K-State, and in most university settings, multiculturalism means we work to foster respect and understanding of varying social groups, races, religions, ethnicities, sexualities, and cultures. Culture encompasses the beliefs, arts, and ways of thinking or behaving of a particular group; for example, part of the culture of K-State is that we are a family. You should not simply be surrounding, or “collecting”, people who are different from you, but engaging with them to understand knowledge and ideas from varying perspectives.

Some of the forms and categories that we use when discussing diversity are:

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Sex/Gender
- Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation
- (Dis)ability
- Age
- Socioeconomic Class
- Religion
- Political Affiliation

Think of the other students, staff, and faculty of K-State as your community. We all have different backgrounds, but we are working together with the common goal of furthering our education and continually engaging in critical thinking. This is an easier task when working respectfully with a group of people. Part of being an educated person is knowing about others and working effectively with others who are different from you – college is a great place to gain practice for your future professional work and place in diverse communities.

Looking In Before Reaching Out:

Oftentimes when we think of diversity our minds immediately go to others, and how they are different from us. However, an important first step is to look inwards and examine our own identities and biases before engaging with others.

Who are you? There are a variety of different identity categories that influence the ways that we shape ourselves. These categories can also inform our actions in the world and how we respond to others that differ from us. These include, but aren’t limited to, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical ability, age, class, and religion. Try to think critically about the personal values and beliefs you hold. Some ways to get started are to ask yourself the following questions:

What informs you? Who influences your understandings of yourself and of others? List some out, and try to add some specific examples (we made a short list to get you started):

- Parents
- Peers
- Media (television, movies, social media, advertising, etc)
- Specific personal experiences

After looking at some of your influences, work to examine your ideas and beliefs more critically. Do you hold any biases or believe stereotypes about certain groups of people? Where might these be coming from? How can you move beyond those?

Try to keep in mind that mere tolerance should not be your end goal. Go beyond tolerance and begin to respect and celebrate the differences among people. Enhance your understanding, and the ways in which you learn. Remember that you are not an individual learning in the vast vacuum of space; rather you are part of a larger community, and others will help to shape you and the culture you engage with.
Seeking and Celebrating Diversity:

Classes:
Within the university you have a unique opportunity for engaged learning. While here at K-State, many different people from varying backgrounds surround you. A world of difference is at your fingertips. Actively seek out any chance you can to learn from those around you.

When focusing on learning within the classroom, K-State has an inclusive curriculum and many opportunities for you to explore:

The K-State 8 general education program helps students widen their perspectives, explore relationships among subjects and build critical and analytical thinking skills. K-State 8 exposes students to a broad range of knowledge in different academic areas. The program shapes well-rounded thinkers and helps prepare students for careers, graduate school and other post-graduate experiences.

One of the 8 Areas is Human Diversity within the U.S. in which many classes focus on diverse perspectives. When deciding on your class schedule with your advisor you can actively seek out classes that fall into this category.

Student Organizations:
Your education does not end once you walk out of those classroom doors. Consider joining or going to meetings and events held by different student groups and organizations. This is a chance for you to get involved and meet new people!

Examples of student organizations at K-State:
- LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) and Allies
- BSU (Black Student Union)
- Christian Challenge
- International Buddies

K-State has hundreds of student groups that you can get involved with. For a full list of possibilities, check out www.k-state.edu/directories.orgs.

Preventing and Responding to Discrimination and Prejudice:

K-State has a very inclusive nondiscrimination policy:

Kansas State University is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, ancestry, disability, military status, veteran status, or other non-merit reasons, in admissions, educational programs or activities and employment, including employment of disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

Hate crimes and discrimination are not to be ignored or tolerated. But if you see this happening on campus, what actions can you take? Again, we ask that you look inward and examine your thoughts and feelings on the matter. How might you respond to discrimination? What if it doesn’t affect you directly? Have you ever witnessed harassment? What can you, as a bystander, do to prevent or intercede?

While any instance of discrimination is unacceptable and might reflect poorly on your experience at K-State, these instances also allow you the opportunity to unite with students, faculty, staff, and administrators to create a positive impact on your community. Some steps you can take might be to attend diverse events, training sessions, workshops, symposiums, movies, guest speakers, etc.

Also keep in mind that there are many campus resources available to help you or anyone else that has had to deal with discrimination or harassment, including the Office of Institutional Equality, the Office of Student Life, the Center for Advocacy Response and Education (CARE), the LGBT Resource Center, and the Campus Police.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

An important factor in your college success is your overall wellness. Your wellness is a combination of how you are feeling physically and mentally and the interaction of you and your environment. College is a new environment with a new schedule and new friends and new food. All of that “new” can throw off your health and fitness plans.

There are many resources available to promote a healthy lifestyle to keep you feeling like you have every opportunity to be successful.

K-State Recreation Center (a.k.a. The Rec)
recservices.k-state.edu/
The recently renovated and expanded Rec Center offers weight and fitness areas, intramural sports, fitness classes that range from yoga to Zumba, courts for basketball, racquetball and handball, indoor tracks, a 40-foot rock wall, and so much more! Students access the Rec with their student ID and most activities require no additional cost. The Rec is a very popular place with students and nearly 5,000 people use the Rec each day.

Lafene Student Health Center
www.k-state.edu/lafene/
Lafene is a full service medical provider that offers students affordable, convenient and high-quality outpatient healthcare. It is located just west of campus on Sunset Avenue, near the Kramer residence hall community. This service is funded in part by the privilege fee you pay each semester. You do not have to pay to see a doctor and some services (such as prescriptions, lab tests, and physical therapy) are charged to you at a reduced rate.

Counseling Services
www.k-state.edu/counseling/
College is an important and busy time. Some students find that having someone to talk to about issues of stress, homesickness, career-decisions, or relationships is helpful in staying on track to their goals. Students may also discover or seek treatment for existing concerns such as depression or anxiety. You have up to four free sessions per year and additional sessions are very affordable.

Office of Student Life
www.k-state.edu/studentlife/
Difficult situations happen. It is likely that you will encounter a situation where you will need a sounding board or where you just are not sure where to turn for help. The Office of Student Life is your go-to resource for help if you need to leave campus for a personal or medical emergency or if you need an advocate in working with a professor and campus entity. The professionals who work in this office provide support and advice.

Your safety
K-State is a very safe campus. We enjoy a safe environment because faculty, student and staff consider campus safety to be an important, shared responsibility.

The University offer many programs and resources to help keep our environment safe. There is also an expectation that students look after each other and take a strong personal stance to keep our community safe and supportive for everyone. Utilize the following resources and learn more about how you can enhance your ability to stay safe.

Sign up for K-State Alerts
www.k-state.edu/safety/alerts
Opt-in for K-State Alerts and sign up your parents and loved ones, too. K-State Alerts is a system that will send texts, e-mails, and phone messages in the events of severe weather or other emergencies.

Use Wildcat Walk and SafeRide
Call 785-395-SAFE or use one of the blue light emergency buttons on campus to have a Wildcat Walk safety escort walk you across campus (or up to two blocks off campus). You can also call ahead and have someone meet you in the parking lot to walk you back to your residence hall or another campus building.

SafeRide is a fixed-route shuttle service that runs Thursday through Saturday nights from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. and offers students a safe ride home. Pick up locations and route maps are available online at www.k-state.edu/osas/saferide.
Be aware of your surroundings
A point of pride at K-State is our tradition of walking across campus and looking people in the eye. Keep your eye out for yourself and each other. The campus is well-lit and we have emergency/information phone boxes or “blue lights” around campus in areas with a lot of student traffic. Use the boxes to request assistance or to report a crime or suspicious behavior.

Protect your possessions
www.k-state.edu/studentlife/campussafety/theft
Theft of personal property is one of the most common crimes on college campuses across the country. Be sure to protect your stuff. Students sometimes are lulled into thinking that Manhattan is a small community and they can be relaxed about the seemingly little things – like locking car doors and residence hall rooms. Purchase a sturdy bike lock, watch your laptop or tablet, and keep other valuables secure. You may benefit from considering more ideas about preventing theft.

Party safe
www.k-state.edu/studentlife/campussafety/decisions
College life offers many occasions to celebrate with friends. Making good decisions around your use of alcohol and drugs is an important part of managing your personal wellness and keeping you on track toward your goals. Check out these tips for staying safe when out with friends.

Prevent sexual violence
www.k-state.edu/studentlife/campussafety/stopssexualviolence
Sexual violence is a very serious and real problem on college campuses across the country. Protect yourself and others by educating yourself about consent, ways to prevent sexual assault, and how to support those affected by sexual violence.

Report suspicious behavior
If you see anything that seems out of the ordinary, tell someone. The Office of Student Life is a good place to begin, 785-532-6432. If it is an emergency, call 911 and you will be connected to the K-State Police. Our police department is on duty 24/7.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Money
Money management might be the most useful skill you gain in college, so start early. You might feel overwhelmed by $8,000 tuition bills, but remember while you are required to pay bills, you still make the choices about what you buy. Coffee, the food court, and the plethora of good-looking K-State gear available can make your money disappear. You can control your spending; you just might need some tools to help you make healthful financial decisions. Two resources on campus are:

Powercat Financial Counseling
Current students can schedule one-on-one financial advising appointments, and PCFC holds several events geared to educate you about smart financial decisions. The office is located on the first floor of the union in the office of student activities and services. Visiting Powercat Financial Counseling will answer your questions about student loans, budgeting, credit use, identity theft, and other aspects of your financial life.

Financial Assistance Advisor
You will also find that your personal financial assistance advisor, assigned to every K-State student, is a great resource. Your advisor can assist with questions about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the availability of loans, grants, work study and tuition waivers. Stop by Fairchild Hall to schedule an appointment.

Academic Life
“Don’t be afraid to ask for help” I was a part of a Cat Community during my freshman year and when I didn’t understand something or needed help I spoke to my professor about it. It took a couple weeks for me to ask for that help, but once I understood that this professor really cared I went to her not just for class, but recommendations or just to vent about life. During the end of my sophomore year the same professor that taught my Cat Community class recruited me to be her LA for the following fall semester. Through this LA experience I’ve grown as a leader, but more importantly as a person. As my mom always said “A closed mouth doesn’t get fed.”
– Shaun Dowdell
Get Involved

Volunteer, join clubs, play intramurals, and especially get to know your professors. Professors love to know who their students are and to be email and to be asked questions because they obviously love what they are teaching. Lots of professors have very interesting life stories if you out get to know them and you can really learn something from them. They are also a source reference. One day if you want to become a doctor you are going to need super good letters of recommendation that can’t be written by family members so you have to turn to a professor. They love doing stuff like this for their students and watching you succeed. I am really big into Crossfit and did gymnastics for 9 years and By talking with my professors I found out he does Crossfit and has a daughter in gymnastics. He said he could help me get a job coaching if I ever wanted it. The more I got to talking with him I also found out his wife is a Spanish major which is what I am studying as a second major! How crazy! The stories you hear from them and the connections you make are priceless. So I would encourage them to get out and make friends because you never know what impact someone is going to have on your life until you get to know them.

- Korynne Rollins

Spontaneous Learning

My second semester of college, I took a public speaking class. I absolutely hated public speaking and was mad it was required because I was sure it wouldn’t benefit me in any way and would only stress me out. Our second assignment was a seven minute persuasive speech. I spent about two hours researching my topic and writing up an outline a few days before I was supposed to speak, with the intention of practicing it the night before I had to present. The next day in class, however, I was called to give my speech out of the blue. I apparently had the presentation date wrong and was scheduled for that day. I tried to explain my way out of it, to no avail. This was just about my worst nightmare short of being in this situation without pants, but I couldn’t just decline to go and fail the assignment. So I stood in front of 25 people and completely ad-libbed my way through it, with nothing but my memory of writing a crude outline the night before to guide me. Lo and behold, the students were really impressed by my improv skills, and the professor was impressed that my speech was generally coherent and almost met the time requirement. I got an 87 on the assignment. Ironically, the class benefited me after all, as I’m now much more confident in my speaking skills since discovering that I could do well even with minimal preparation.

- Caitlin Dye
CHAPTER 4
KSBN AND THE COMMON BOOK
KSBN AND THE GHOST MAP
What is KSBN?
The K-State Book Network (KSBN) is part of K-State’s first year experience program, K-State First. K-State First was established to help first-year students transition to campus by providing them with the elements necessary to create a solid foundation that will help students be successful in college. These elements are mentoring, small interactive classes, community, and a shared academic experience.

KSBN is a large committee of students, staff, and faculty who select a book that can be read over a summer, that can be used in a variety of different classes, and will provide an interesting topic for conversation.

Why read a common book?
K-Staters wear purple, do “The Wabash,” and read books. This year, we invite the K-State community to read The Ghost Map by Steven Johnson. A committee of over 50 students, staff, and faculty selected this book because they believe the book will provide a great introduction to the academic culture at K-State.

By participating in this common reading
• you will be introduced to thought-provoking ideas
• you will participate in engaging discussions
• teach persistence
• build community by interacting with others in activities and discussions built around the book and the issues it raises
• use what was learned from the book in other settings, both in the classroom and more broadly in the university community

How to read a book in a scholarly manner/tips for reading critically
No matter what your skill level, everyone comes across a text that is difficult to read, hard to follow, or just not interesting at least once in their college career. Regardless of the reason, these tips can help you get through the text and retain the information so you can be successful on your next test or essay.

Environment
• Do you do better in a quiet space or a lot of background noise? Take that into consideration when before you pick up your book.

Read
• Read into manageable sections. Don’t force yourself to plow through the assigned readings all at once if your brain is fighting it.

Take notes & summarize
• Underline or highlight sections that seem important or spark questions. Break the rules and write in the margins of your book, no one will tell. Write a short summary in your own words of the chapter, section, or paragraph you just read. It will make it much easier to review when it comes time to study for the test.

Talk about it
• Make a new friend in class and talk to him or her about what you read or explain the text to your roommate. Remember, if you can’t explain what you read simply, you simply do not understand what you read.
About the author
Steven Johnson is the bestselling author of Everything Bad Is Good for You, Mind Wide Open, Emergence, and Interface Culture. He is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University’s Department of Journalism and the founder of several influential websites, including FEED, Plastic, and, currently, outside.in. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and their three sons.

Book Summary
The Ghost Map is a true account of a terrifying outbreak of cholera and how two everyday heroes -- Dr. John Snow and Reverend Henry Whitehead -- use their knowledge of the disease and the city to map the pandemic.

This book will introduce you to a disease that you have only heard about on the news, but cholera is common to millions of people around the world whose living conditions and sanitation practices are not that different from those described in the book.

Four Rules to Live By
1. Drink the chocolate milk in the Derb
2. GO TO CLASS
3. Learn how to navigate the library and don’t be afraid to ask librarians questions
4. Always check your email!
   – Meredith Clark

THE GHOST MAP
RESOURCES

Characters
Dr. John Snow
(1813-1858) English physician known for his seminal studies of cholera and widely viewed as the father of contemporary epidemiology. His investigation of London’s Broad Street pump outbreak and his “Grand Experiment,” a study comparing waterborne cholera cases in two regions of the city, led to the overthrow of the reigning miasma theory. Snow’s innovative reasoning and approach to the control of cholera remain valid and are considered exemplary for epidemiologists throughout the world.

Rev. Henry Whitehead
(1825-1896) When the cholera outbreak of 1854 began in earnest, Whitehead became very concerned for his parishioners, many of whom were looking to the church for answers about the epidemic. In effort to calm his parishioners’ fears, Whitehead began searching for answers to the outbreak. Whitehead’s knowledge of Soho and the citizens there was crucial to his and Snow’s investigation and the eventual overthrow of the miasma theory.

Cholera
An acute infection of the small intestine caused by the bacterium Vibrio Cholerea and characterized by extreme diarrhea with rapid and severe depletion of body fluids and salts. Cholera is a disease that can incite populations to panic and has been
responsible for the deaths of millions, for economic losses of immense magnitude, and for the disruption of the very fabric of society in all parts of the world.

London (1800s) By the mid-nineteenth century, London was emerging as one of the first modern cities in the world, but it lacked the public health infrastructure to support its exploding population. Due to the lack of a sewer system in the Soho district, much of the waste created by the citizens was dumped into the River Thames; however, the River Thames was also where peoples’ drinking water came from. The lack of necessary sanitation services led to a series of cholera outbreaks in the nineteenth century, including the Broad Street cholera outbreak.

Sources: Encyclopedia Britannica, UCLA Department of Epidemiology, Cholera and the Thames, Penguin Group Reading Guide

Vocabulary (Glossary of Terms):
Symbiosis (p. 6) Symbiosis is the association of two dissimilar organisms living together. The relationship may be mutually beneficial or one organism may gain a benefit while the other does not. The concept describes a bacteria which needs a human host to provide a food source (think Vibrio cholerae) as well as the human body which utilizes bacteria (e.g. some strains of e. coli) as part of its digestive processes.

Maverick (p. 26) A maverick is a person who thinks independently. The term can refer to an intellectual, artist, scientist, politician or anyone who takes a stand that is apart or different from his or her associates. It might be applied to John Snow. He regularly did not let the popular scientific ideas or the mindset of his time deter him from making scientific inquiries based on different assumptions.

Consilience (p. 67-68) Consilience is the linking together of principles from different disciplines, especially when forming a comprehensive theory. John Snow exhibited consilient thinking. He drew upon his broad background and used insights from many different disciplines to form his ideas and hypotheses.

Empiricism (p. 68) Empiricism, in relation to the natural sciences, is the practice of relying on observation, data collection, and experimentation. John Snow was a particularly adamant follower of empiricism, especially in regard to his work with chloroform and in his other scientific pursuits, including his famous work involving cholera.

Epidemiology (p. 97) Epidemiology is the study of the incidence, prevalence, and source of disease in large populations. It investigates both epidemic (i.e. episodic) and endemic (i.e. always present) diseases. Epidemiology focuses on groups rather than individuals and often takes a historical perspective. It is a major field of medical research today. However, in Victorian London, the field was in its infancy, and John Snow was an early practitioner.

Index Case (p.177) The index case is the first case of a disease in a group or population. It usually serves to call attention to the presence of the disease. Finding the index case for the Soho outbreak of 1854 was very important to John Snow as it helped him support his theory of waterborne transmission of cholera. The location of the index case was in a house whose residents fouled (contaminated) a popular well from which Soho residents drew water.

Effluvia (p.184) Effluvia are invisible emanations, especially in relation to an offensive exhalation or smell. Effluvia are detected by the olfactory system (sense of smell) and were often cited as the cause of all sickness by miasmists. This was the scientific understanding that John Snow’s evidence in support of the “germ theory of disease” sought to overturn.

Paradigm (p. 202) Broadly defined, paradigms are philosophical or theoretical frameworks within which theories, laws, experiments, and generalizations are formed. In science they can be seen in the sets of assumptions and practices that define a scientific discipline during a particular period of time. John Snow worked against the dominant paradigm, the miasma theory of disease, and refused to let it fully define his understanding or structure his observations and data collection. Snow’s efforts helped bring about a new paradigm.
Cholera Facts

What is Cholera?
An acute infection of the small intestine caused by the bacterium Vibrio Cholerae and characterized by extreme diarrhea with rapid and severe depletion of body fluids and salts.

Where is it found?
The cholera bacterium is usually found in water.

How do I get it?
By drinking water or eating food contaminated with the cholera bacterium.

Symptoms
Watery diarrhea, vomiting, and leg cramps.

What is the Treatment for Cholera?
Immediate replacement of the fluid and salts lost through diarrhea.

Can I get cholera from other people?
Casual contact with an infected person does not spread the disease.

Life in Victorian London

The Ghost Map takes place during the Victorian era, named after the reign of Queen Victoria from 1837-1901. Great Britain was the world’s most powerful nation.

Work
People were moving from the country to the city and the demand for workers increased greatly.

Men’s work
With the rise of the middle class, men’s career opportunities grew to include being businessmen, shopkeepers and merchants, clerks, and managers. Men worked on average 9–10 hours/day for 5 1/2 to 6 days a week. Depending on the distance from their home to work, that could total 55-70 hours per week.

Women’s work
Women’s work options were generally associated with female skills such as domestic and seamstress. With the growth of hospitals, more nursing became another respectable career option for women to consider.

Food & Nutrition

The average working class person ate twice as much as we do today due to the amount of physical activity it took to do their jobs. Men ate 3,000 to 4,500 calories a day and women ate 2,750 to 3,500 calories a day. The average diet of a working class man or woman consisted of root vegetables, fruit like apples and gooseberries, legumes and nuts, meat like herring and offal (organ meat).

Health
Death rates in London were high and worse in cities than in the countryside. The city was a notoriously unhealthy environment due to overcrowding, poor sanitation, and poor working conditions. At times, the cure was worse the than the cause. Many medicines were made out of plants and were often prepared with substances like arsenic or mercury. Other cures for problems included vomiting, laxatives, bleeding, and prayer.

Common causes of death were:
• Lung infections like tuberculosis and pneumonia and epidemics like cholera
• Work accidents
• Infant/mother mortality
• Heart failure due to disease such as rheumatic fever

Timeline
• 1596-the flush toilet is invented by Sir John Harrington (Thomas Crapper is often credited with the invention due to some improvements he made on the design and excellent self-promotion)
• 1817- stethoscope is invented
• 1840s- anesthesia is invented
• 1850s-Louis Pasteur verifies the germ theory
• 1850s-the establishment of the British Medical Association (1856) and the General Medical Council (1858) formalizes the establishment of medical schools
• 1857- Toilet paper is invented
• 1895 – x-ray is discovered
• 1896 – radiation is discovered
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**The Ghost Map Discussion Questions**

1. Wicked problems can be described as a problem that is difficult to solve due to its complexity and the effort to solve one aspect of the problem may create other problems. Are there wicked problems affecting students you know or work with?

2. Snow and Whitehead have been described as “everyday heroes”. How do you define “everyday hero”? Is that something that can be taught, or are you born that way?

3. The debate in the scientific community over the cause of the cholera epidemic in Victorian London included two theories - miasma and waterborne (ie. germ theory). Which proved correct? How do you help people succeed when you know they are blaming the wrong source of a problem?

4. During the 1854 cholera epidemic, did most Londoners leave or choose to stay? If there was an epidemic in Manhattan or your hometown, would you stay or go? Why?

5. What new and exciting technology helped along the spread of cholera in The Ghost Map? What technological innovations have had unintended consequences in your life? What can you do to help curb the spread of that problem?

6. Whitehead original believed that miasma was the cause of the cholera epidemic and set off to prove Dr. Snow’s water theory was wrong. After investigating and discovering new information, he changed his mind and agreed with Snow’s theory. Why do you believe he changed his mind? Do you believe that people today are as open minded to information that opposes their beliefs? Why or why not?

7. Why did the Elizabethan infrastructure of London fail to provide clean water?

8. What role did engineering play in discovering physical proof that Baby Lewis infected the Broad Street pump?

9. Nineteenth-century London has much in common with cities in the developing world, such as New Delhi or Brasilia: they lack sewer systems or reliable sources of clean water. What strategies have contemporary engineers and social entrepreneurs found to solve these issues?

10. What physical and social structures need to be in place to provide clean water at low costs?

11. With the invention of GPS, do maps still have any value?

12. What is the likelihood that a widespread event like the cholera outbreak could happen in North America today? Where might it start, and what conditions would need to exist?

13. What is the next cholera-like disease, and what are we doing about it?

**Bibliography**


