

Mia-Myline Medina

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English Composition

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### Collegiate Do's and Don'ts

Mark Goldblatt, in his article *10 Indispensable Pieces of Advice for Every College-Bound Student*, shares many overused tips that students have heard countless times before. To begin, Goldblatt states that students have an obligation to “show up on time,” further elaborating that simply leaving one’s possessions at the desk while absent from the room will not suffice, tardiness must be discrete, and texting is unacceptable during class. Stressing punctuality and general classroom manners is nothing new. Since elementary school, classical conditioning has played a part in training students to arrive at class on time, to turn off electronic devices, and to be discrete when arriving late. Violators of these rules are punished. Punctuality and classroom etiquette have been drilled into growing children’s minds for most of their childhoods, thus rendering tip number one and the proceeding second-level numbers unnecessary. While important, tips number two and three involve common sense tasks. By the time one reaches college-level maturity, the individual has the basic knowledge to ask questions when needed or look up unknown topics. Yet Goldblatt dedicates two separate tip spaces to patronize the reader about the general lack of interest in taking action that incoming college students possess. What he manages to spread into three bullet points, Goldblatt could have easily briefly refreshed the reader in an opening or introductory paragraph. Number four, broken down into five secondary-levels, is dedicated to all of the qualities a student should possess when dealing with a professor. Starting number four, Goldblatt expresses that professors can simply be called “Professor” and

that the suffix Mr. or Mrs. Should be avoided. This section provides minimal important information.