

David's Tips to Conquer College for Students with Learning Differences

by **David Petrovic** (cum laude college grad with autism & Tourette's)

- Your differences are part of **who you are** as a unique individual!
- Struggles make you stronger!
- Learn from your daily experiences and **adjust!**
- Try...and grow!
- Remember your strengths and what you do well!

Preparing for College

- Start to advocate for your needs in high school: **don't be ashamed!**
- Choose a school that will support your academic needs
- Take a study skills class to learn techniques and increase confidence
- Consider a transition year living at home to adjust to academics before moving on campus

College Life

- Utilize and embrace the accommodations, resources, and services *immediately*
 - **Don't be embarrassed!**
- Get organized!
 - Use a written or electronic planner
 - If overwhelmed: write out a schedule and then FOLLOW it!
- Ask for help!
 - It is not a sign of weakness...it's **smart!**
 - Be the best "you" possible!

David's Special Advice:

- **Don't use your difference as an excuse or crutch to get out of work!**
 - Come up with a plan to work around your challenges
 - Communicate these needs to the people who can make them happen
- Don't shut out your parents and/or family just because you are "18" and "in college"!
- BALANCE between work and play is the KEY!

To learn more about college preparation and transitioning, consider reading my book:

Expect a Miracle: Understanding and Living with Autism

This book includes other young adult topics, including acclimating to the working world

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