

CPSG101 Science & Global Change First Year Colloquium II
“Freshman Time Capsule” Reflection Essay
Due Online May 10, 2022

You are now completing your first academic year and one way or another have learned much. In some ways, your life here may have gone according to plan and in other ways, it will have been full of surprises. Your assignment now is to create a “time capsule” in the form of an essay letting next year’s incoming students know what to expect. For this exercise, although it will be hard to disregard the effects of the COVID-19 situation, remember that you are addressing people who hopefully will not have had to deal with it as you have. For that reason, try not to focus unnecessarily on issues that they won’t have to address.

Technical requirements:

- Format your essay as a web page, using the same web-development technologies, formats, and style as your primary Scholars Academic Portfolio page. (You can use your “Expectations vs. Reality” page from Semester I as a template. Just replace the body text. And change the file name and title!)
- Create a link to it from the main page’s “SGC Gallery and Online Projects” list. Don’t forget to proof your finished uploaded page and verify that all links function.
- If you type this up in a word processor first, be careful to use only straight (not curly) apostrophes and quotation marks.
- Apply your own css to the webpage.

The Topic:

As always, we value most your spontaneous observations, but also request that you please address the following points. Typically, a thoughtful response would have between 500 and 1000 words, but don’t obsess over word count, and never pad!

- No high school can match a research university's academic breadth and scope. Not counting your Scholars colloquium, which course or courses came as the greatest revelation or surprise to you? How did you discover them and what strategies might incoming students pursue to experience similar surprises?
- The chance to develop mentoring relationships with faculty is a unique university opportunity. Describe your greatest success in developing strong relationships with faculty members and the greatest obstacles to achieving this. How do you recommend that incoming students pursue such relationships?
- Adjusting to the university is not easy. How have your relationships with fellow students enabled you to cope with the adjustment? What are the greatest obstacles in pursuing these relationships? How can next year's freshmen make the best use of their connections with their peers?
- For what aspects of university academic life were you, in retrospect, least prepared? How do you recommend that prospective students and incoming freshmen prepare to address these issues when their turn comes?

[A FINAL NOTE: We do recognize the end of the semester is often a time when many high point value projects become due in all your courses, but we really hope that you will put serious thought and reflection into this essay. Next year's students (and hopefully you) can use this essay in future years to look back at your time in Scholars to reflect on how that experienced affected your future experiences at the University of Maryland.]