



Meaning Maker.org

- Meaning Maker [Higher Education](#) Edition provides a structure for evaluating and preserving your college experiences.

**Your personal tool for a
“Value Added” experience.**

- Organize your thoughts and cultivate purpose for every school term you sign up for.
- Over time, Meaning Maker [Higher Education](#) Edition will provide you with an invaluable index of the pluses and minuses of your academic experiences.
- Pin Meaning Maker to your bulletin board at the start of the term, and make a note in your date book to complete it immediately after finals.
- Meaning Maker [Higher Education](#) Edition is good for guilt trips, walks down memory lane; self-delusion assessment; job applications; debriefing; letting go; demonstrating your own self-worth; and proving something to your parents, yourself, or your friends.

Meaning Maker comes in a variety of experiences.
Download and print Meaning Makers
for all of your social engagements.

Log onto meaningmaker.org
to share your Meaning Maker experience.

PERSONAL RELEVANCE *(upon reflection)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I enjoyed college | <input type="checkbox"/> I was lonely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I learned lots | <input type="checkbox"/> I should have quit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It was a waste of money | <input type="checkbox"/> I am proud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would have preferred to stay home | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The experience changed my life | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I feel prepared to be an engaged citizen of the world | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I should have skipped more classes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I could have studied more and partied less | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I fell in love, came out, or changed religions | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everything I believed in was challenged | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My education was well worth the thousands I owe | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning Maker has changed my life forever | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have grown and keep growing in unforeseen ways | |

Former classmates will remember me as:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> studious | <input type="checkbox"/> easy | <input type="checkbox"/> in-the-know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> smart | <input type="checkbox"/> witty | <input type="checkbox"/> drunk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a loner | <input type="checkbox"/> stoned | <input type="checkbox"/> dumb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boring | <input type="checkbox"/> connected | <input type="checkbox"/> a smart-ass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> generous | <input type="checkbox"/> absent | <input type="checkbox"/> a leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> entertaining | <input type="checkbox"/> a good time | <input type="checkbox"/> teacher's pet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spoiled | <input type="checkbox"/> lazy | <input type="checkbox"/> gifted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> popular | <input type="checkbox"/> kind | <input type="checkbox"/> trouble |
| <input type="checkbox"/> whining | <input type="checkbox"/> careless | <input type="checkbox"/> lucky |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moe or Curly | <input type="checkbox"/> Eddie Haskell | <input type="checkbox"/> Spock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> future President | <input type="checkbox"/> the one going to jail | |

Memorable moments:

Most important things I learned:



Meaning Maker.org

Higher Education Edition

Instructions:

Complete after term. File for future reference.

School _____

Degree _____

Term _____

Courses: *(course name, instructor)*

THE ENVIRONMENT *(the institution of higher learning)*

The facilities:

- had very low ceilings
- edgy and contemporary
- stately and proud
- integrated with nature
- green and sustainable
- open and airy
- were institutional green
- old and unkept
- needed a fresh coat of paint
- dark and windowless
- were in the process of hazardous waste removal

Technology available:

- costly for students
- cutting edge
- archaic
- manual typewriters
- old and slow
- graffiti ridden
- wired and accessible
- what technology?
- blocked!
- worked intermittently
- had to provide my own

Library resources:

- are you kidding?
- couldn't find anything
- lots of movie videos
- an exceptional collection
- were not available
- great place to hook up
- great periodicals
- were not online
- used google instead
- way too much work

The stacks:

- moldy and smelly
- well-organized
- a mess
- cold and empty
- dangerous
- germ-laden
- pancakes?
- boobs?
- never been
- still organized by Dewey
- a place to meet
- not updated since WWII
- claustrophobic

Student organizations:

- are you kidding?
- saved my life
- the bars?
- like ping pong club?
- I'm not Greek
- how uncool
- not allowed on campus
- provided me with invaluable experiences

Gave me opportunities to:

- pad my resumé
- have sex
- party
- make new friends
- eat free food
- feel safe
- learn networking skills
- develop career contacts
- develop leadership skills
- play and have fun
- apply my knowledge
- try a beer bong
- learn about different lifestyles
- expand my horizons

Institutional Politics:

- were transparent
- were invisible
- what is this?
- only served the institution
- quieted innovation
- there was obvious disgruntlement with the system
- professors used students for political means
- the professors dissed each other
- needlessly added to the bureaucracy
- did not interfere with my education
- never met the Provost, President, Dean or Chair

THE INSTRUCTION *(the delivery of information)*

The Professors:

- were inspirational
- dinosaurs
- sexy
- wore bowties
- forgot to retire
- arrogant
- enlightened me
- stereotypical
- famous
- used grad students
- inarticulate
- brilliant
- had high expectations
- stole students' ideas
- were obviously overworked
- condescending
- I never saw the instructor
- knew my name
- expected work outside of class
- told irrelevant personal stories
- focused on teaching, not learning
- used too much jargon to be understood
- were bored by their own research
- spoke to an increasingly small class
- repeated themselves endlessly
- employed the entertainment factor

Online Courses:

- were way too easy
- had low expectations
- too much writing
- too much reading
- I enjoyed the anonymity
- I refused to try one
- much harder than expected
- not in my life
- the instructor went missing
- for real?
- required extra reading and research
- I appreciate the flexibility of schedule
- require self-motivation to do well
- I appreciated being able to study the lecture
- had a very engaged forum/dialogue
- more interesting than lecture classes
- I couldn't figure out how to use the software

The coursework:

- easy A
- hard C
- high school
- enlightening
- insulting
- meaningless
- very interesting
- challenging
- relevant
- what coursework?
- I'm on the team
- too much reading
- too much writing
- was appropriate for my chosen career
- was from a previous century
- will be valuable in my daily life
- makes me feel like a well-educated citizen

Critical Thinking:

- I feel smarter now
- not what I came here for
- what's that?
- we regurgitated facts
- thinking?
- we filled in bubbles
- google eliminated this requirement
- writing expanded my perspectives
- provided excellent opportunities to develop my mind and creative abilities

MY PERFORMANCE *(personal functionality)*

In class I:

- was present
- was engaged
- was absent
- was distracted
- was prepared
- sat upfront
- sat in the back
- did my nails
- snacked
- was unprepared
- took great notes
- shopped
- was occupied by my device
- was often late
- challenged the instructor
- caught up on sleep
- asked pertinent questions
- was socially active
- rarely paid attention
- was a casual learner
- allowed my mind to wander
- was an active learner
- didn't challenge anything
- copied from others
- imagined promiscuous acts
- focused on learning
- planned my recreational activities
- set the example of engaged learning
- questioned the professor's validity under my breath
- wanted the instructor to tell me everything I need to know
- actively participated in discussions and activities
- helped classmates understand by rephrasing information
- had to ask the instructor to repeat the information
- failed to take advantage of my educational opportunities

In collaborative projects I:

- carried the project
- did most of the work
- was lame
- didn't do my part
- depended on others
- did minimal work
- learned a lot
- made new friends
- developed team skills
- created obstacles
- learned to work with others
- tried to dominate
- provided leadership
- did what I was told
- was accused of flirting
- was texting
- helped my team understand the material
- learned conflict resolution skills
- learned project management skills
- had no idea what was going on
- took credit for work I didn't do
- relied on the brainier participants

Outside of class I:

- didn't buy the book
- forgot about the class
- engaged in extra research
- focused on my tattoos
- did only the required homework
- tried to apply my new knowledge meaningfully
- copied the homework from a friend
- worked extra hard to understand and master the material
- dissed the instructor and course content
- lied to my parents about my academic progress
- engaged in social activities instead of doing coursework
- encouraged my friends to be academically lazy
- am very popular and sought after
- prefer the bong over the book