

Final Year Fortunes

A GAME SHOW TAKING YOU INSIDE THE MIND OF A FINAL YEAR STUDENT.

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Being 'Final Year'

20 blog posts by former Final Years

2 current Final Years

30 words



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Being 'Final Year'

What's it like?

What's on their minds?

What do they want? Need?

What makes them tick?



Final Year Fortunes

1. Discussion questions:

- What is on a student's mind as they enter their final year? What do they want and need? What is their life like?

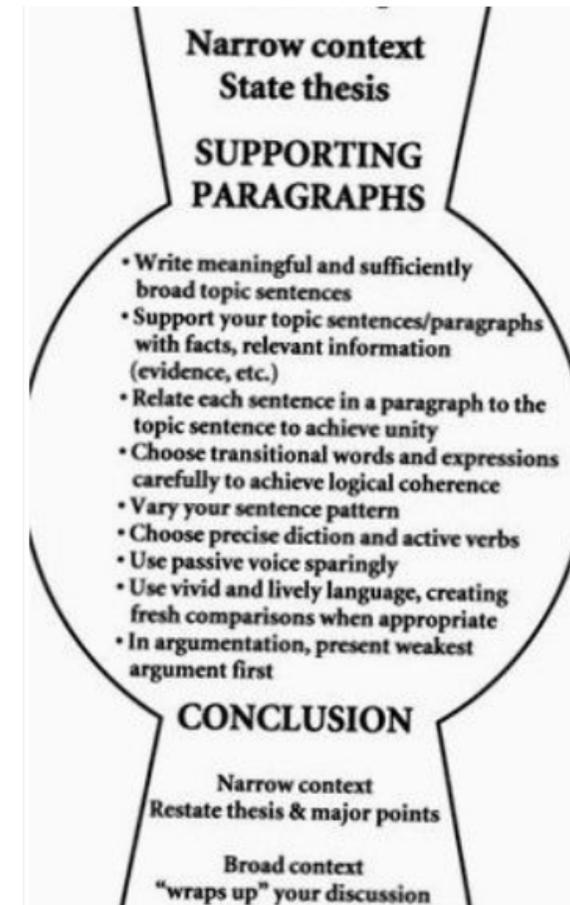
2. Write 9 keywords from your discussion onto your Bingo Card.

3. You will be awarded points for the words on your card based on their frequency in the Final Year Blog corpus.

4. If you get a line, words for all points are tripled on that line.

Essays and Exams

- ❑ Rusty
- ❑ Why is final year harder?
- ❑ How do you get from 68% to 70%?
- ❑ Need a refresher course
- ❑ “Need to demonstrate wider reading” in exam essays. How???
- ❑ More attention paid to reading list than earlier years

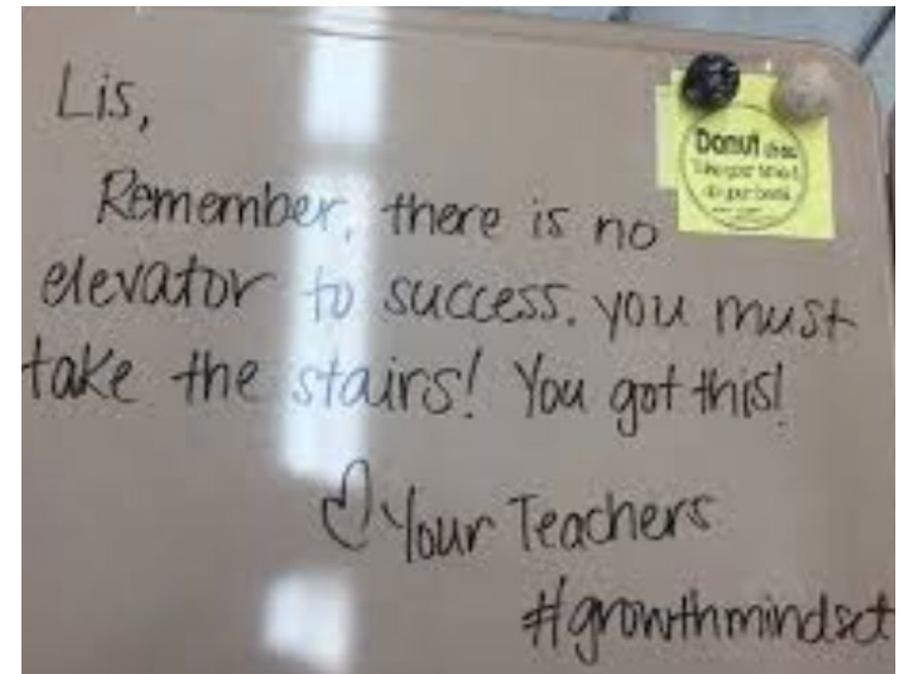


*“Before I began my final year, I remember envisaging a year comprised of late **nights(13)** at the **library(7)**, tight **deadlines(7)**, long **essays(7)**, difficult **exams(14)**, graduate **program(6)** **application(6)** **forms(4)** and a lot of **coffee(9)**.”*

The Dissertation

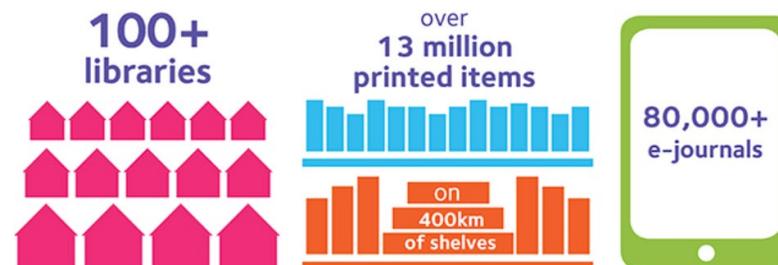
- ❑ Just start – starting is the hardest thing.
- ❑ “Procrastination is the killer”

*This is it they say, the big one, the one that really counts and all your hard work at school, college and uni leads up to. But, if you flip the coin it is just another year at uni. Sure you want to get your head down, bring your A game and do yourself justice, but keeping **perspective(3)** throughout your final year is the most important thing. Your essays, **dissertation(10)** and exams matter, of course they do, but nothing is worth you mounting **pressure(7)** onto yourself to the point of collapse or exhaustion, it just isn't.*



Library / Resources(5)

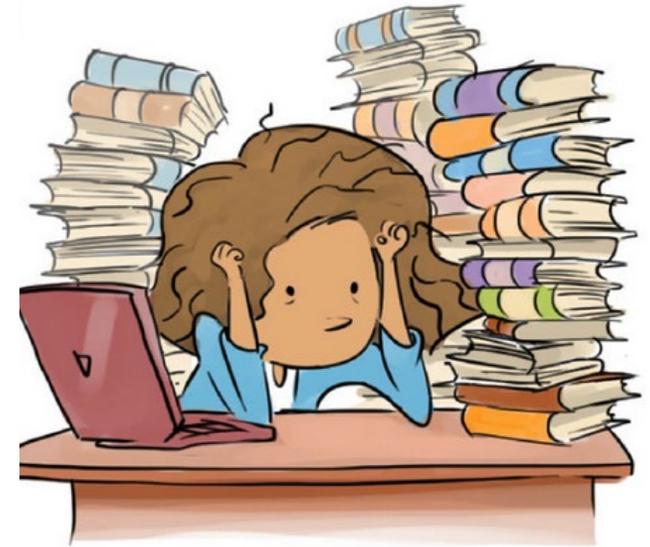
- ❑ Publicising of resources more the issue than the resources themselves – everything is online
- ❑ Do more reading so need more experience with using library resource interfaces
- ❑ More people do reading in final year so more competition for resources
- ❑ Study space?



*I knew how much was riding on my final year at university so I made the most of my **module(4)** choices. I carefully calculated where my **interests(5)** lay, whether I wanted to do more exam based or **coursework(3)** based **subjects(10)** and how I should split the weighting over the first and second term. This, I believe, was my saving grace. I went into both university terms feeling very prepared and enthusiastic for the subjects.*

Organisation

- ❑ “You should know how you work best by now!”
- ❑ 1st Year – How do I learn?
- ❑ 2nd Year – Develop my learning.
- ❑ Final year – Maximise my learning - no new factors, no experiments
- ❑ Time management
- ❑ Structured schedule of learning



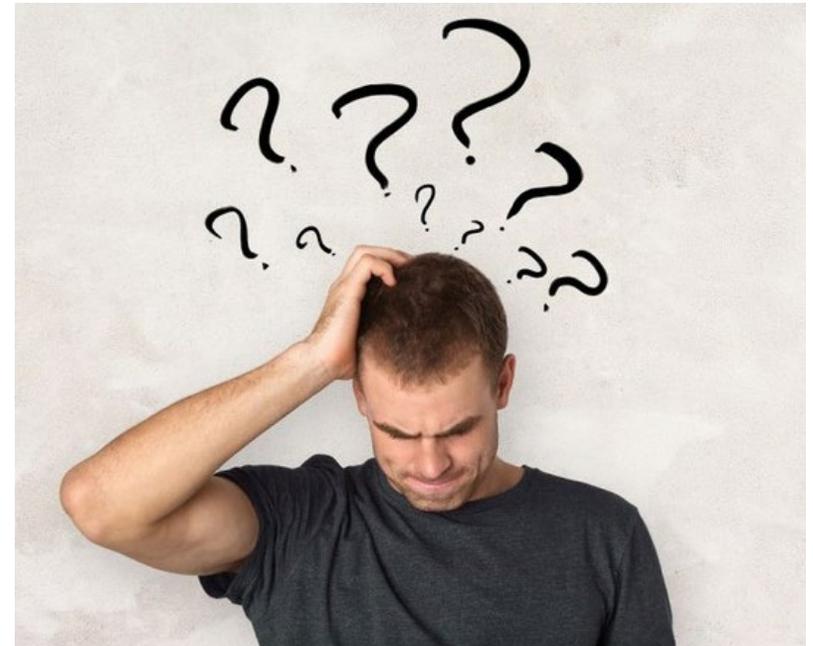
GO – Getting Organised!

*Of course, you can't pass finals without doing any **revision(5)**. I made a list of strong and weak subjects then planned my revision based on this. **Timetables(4)** are important too. By making one it made me **organized(9)**, allowed me to make sure I worked through everything, and put the right amount of **time(43)** into the right areas. Just when you think you can catch a break, something else always comes up. There are applications for foundation training and so more paperwork was added to an already staggering pile.*

Remember.

And don't forget to eat, drink and sleep.

- ❑ Remember to look after yourself.
- ❑ Forget stress.
- ❑ Importance of sleep to health.
- ❑ “Weekly shop at Aldi, gym twice a week”
- ❑ Don't get reliant on coffee – tea is better!
- ❑ Snacks help to work – not chocolate; carrot sticks better



2. Never underestimate a coffee **break(7)** When you're 5 hours into a library sesh and every inch of your sanity has slipped away, a hot **drink(13)** is only a short walk away. Whether you're a coffee gal or just fancy a hot choccy, a hot drink can work wonders. As can a natter with your pals alongside drinking said drink.

*I'm not going to lie final year is tough – all the knowledge we've learnt over the past 3 years is expected to reamed off at a minutes notice (so if your not in the hospital you'll be revising or at least you should be and you might be revising after you've gotten home at 9pm after a 12 hour shift, and don't forget that you have to **eat(5)**, **sleep(12)** and shower during this time until your back in at 7:15am) but its also good fun (at times) so I so pose you could say that it has its moments.*

Friends

- ❑ Allies more than friends i.e. people who help with your studies
- ❑ Find people with similar interests
- ❑ “My race and your race are not the same”
- ❑ Be social, maintain boundaries

**NATIONS HAVE NO
PERMANENT
FRIENDS OR ALLIES,
THEY ONLY HAVE
PERMANENT
INTERESTS.**

*Equally, ask these same people to give you constructive criticism on what you need to work on. This doesn't have to be just **friends(14)** and **family(4)**, but lecturers you **trust(5)** as well. That way if potential **employers(4)** bring up these weaknesses, you can shrug them off, leave it in the past and move on to the next one.*

Pressure

- ❑ Guilt-free weekends are rare
- ❑ Financial vs. Social
- ❑ Uncertainty – what happens after May?
- ❑ Need a Plan A/B/C/D/E !



My brain deciding what today's breakdown will be about



*Work hard, accept whatever the outcome is, and figure out your next step from there. The mental **health(9)** of uni students stands at an appalling rate, with **stress(15)**, pressure and social anxiety causing so many young people, with such potential, to end up in really dark places, so never forget, especially during the dreaded deadline and exam seasons, to take a step back.*

Future Career

- ❑ Future is all about job and career
- ❑ Module selection
- ❑ Post-graduation plan
- ❑ Need a realistic pictures of jobs



*If you're in your final year of university and wondering what comes next, you're not alone. Plenty of graduates have no clue about what they will do after university is over, and many opting for **career(19)** paths that have almost nothing to do with their specific degree.*

