

Navigating College as an Adult ELI student

If you need a little inspiration as an adult navigating through Eli classes, and the working real world you've landed in the right place. My name is Kenya. I'm a 30-ish mom of 3 kids. I've worked full-time as an art director and Information Architect for nearly 9 years. I also have a my other babies (my dog CoCo and my husband) in my life. You may be wondering at this point why am I suddenly an ELI student if I already have a career. Well here' the kicker- I reached a point in my career where I could not go any further without a BFA or BA degree. You see I've managed to soar this far on just an Associate's degree from a school that I found out no longer exists. It is now called Sanz School. George Mason rejected my credits and I was told that if I wanted a Bachelor's degree I'd have to earn it from scratch. That's when the panic set in. I wondered, "How can I go back to school??! I'm too busy as it is." Kids, wife, cooking, pets, work, how would homework fit in?? Well I simply made up my mind that it could indeed be done.

First I decided that I would go to an accredited and respected school this time around. Then I factored in tuition costs. What school was the best for me as a VA resident? Well then the choice was obvious NOVA! Then I found out about the transfer agreements with so many 4 year universities and I was thrilled. I sat my family and friends down and explained how I would need support and a extra hand because homework and classwork would be a top priority. I got the support and enrolled. "TA-DA" I'm a 30 year freshman!! I could not do it without distance learning. ELI 's flexible schedule has proven to be WONDERFUL! Now it's not for everybody. However, if you can manage your time and truly commit to 2-3 hours a day you CAN and WILL do well as an ELI student.

In closing, corner off a part of your home that is your study area, always ask for help when needed, and plan your time well. Don't feel discouraged when you see how much work is ahead of you. Don't be afraid to ask for help. ELI has tons of support systems in place for you if you need tutoring or just someone to talk to and vent. And most importantly- Don't feel too old!!! LOL. It's never too late to get an education. When you are speaking with a 18 year old on your discussion board you are all equal peers. You will leave the semester with new camaraderie among your peers for sure. You will do great as an ELI student here at NOVA. I'm a walking testimony 😊 Check me out after the 9 to 5 about to log on for school.

Connect with Keyna and comment on her blog post on our Virtual Student Union (VSU):

http://elife.nvcc.edu/vsu/?page_id=32&gid=1#cid=0,tid=31

