

A day in the  
life of a  
University Student

A short skit for college orientation

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**Written to allow for directorial vision in terms of gender and amount of characters required. Single requirement is at least one female cast.**



# A Day In The Life Of A University Student

## CAST OF CHARACTERS:

*All characters have been written in such a way that they can be played by either a male or female actor. This is entirely the decision of the director. At least 1 female actor is required to allow for reading of scene from 'Boy Gets Girl'.*

Narrator & Voice-Over

Student

Professor 1

Professor 2

6 Extras – play Friend 1 & 2 as well as all extras called for

## Special Effects Required:

Video projector needed to display fake ID on screen during final monologue

Clock moving time forward at a fast rate

## Properties & Furniture:

### *Dorm Room*

Bed                      Desk                      Computer                      Textbooks                      Paper

Telephone              Alarm Clock (needs to break in two)              2 chairs

### *Laboratory:*

Lab Table              Microscope                      Slides                      Notebook

### *Theatre Class:*

7 Backpacks      Chair for professor

## A Day In The Life Of A University Student

**NARRATOR:** (*enter stage l. with cross to stage c. Spoken as crossing*) Fall. It's a time when a tree changes colours, when the air takes on a crispness that cannot be felt in any other time of the year. It's also a time when students bravely journey towards their chosen university and begin their scholastic advancement, adding to the knowledge that has been crammed into their brains throughout their careers in school, and a place where they come to meet new dudes or chicks, get drunk, and engage in other debauchery.

The story which you about to witness is such a story. Come and journey through the day of a first-year university student. Journey with them throughout their classes, interact with their friends, and be sure to bring a couple cans of beer with you. We begin with a typical morning.

*(Lights down. Reset to a dorm room – bed, desk with computer, books, paper, telephone on the floor, alarm clock on the side. Alarm clock goes off and the student reaches over and throws it across the room.)*

**STUDENT:** (*sitting up in bed*) Welcome to a day in my life. It's 11:00 am and I have already slept through my Sociology class. I can't remember the last time I went. I think it may have been a couple of weeks ago. (*beat*) As you can see, my room is a total mess and it looks like I have destroyed another alarm clock – fifth one this week. And it is only Tuesday. Looks like I will have to make another trip to Wal-Mart. I was up until 3:00 am last night studying for a major test that I have in (*looks at where alarm clock was, shrugs, then looks at watch*) thirty minutes. I live in student residences and today especially am extremely grateful for the fact that the entire school is located on a single campus. The last few days have been spent in the school library – taking in the size of the place was not something that I was expecting to be challenging, but it is. I have been researching for a paper in a Psychology class. All I can say is that it has been a lot of reading and writing. It's time for me to have a bowl of cereal – after all, cereal is a staple food.

*(Student gets out of bed and walks towards desk. Open the drawer on top l. and take out a bowl, spoon, and box of cereal. Puts cereal into bowl and eats quickly)*

That was good! I have to say, I never thought that cereal could be so good, but it is. It's time to get to class. The time spent in the halls can be crazy. And you meet all sorts of people there. You really do. I've found that it is true what they told us in orientation – the halls are crowded and if you stop in the middle, you will be run down. I'll see you at the test.

*(Student runs off stage l. Lights down to reset stage to classroom. As lights are coming up, **Voiceover** saying, "This is a day in the life". VO should be done with reverb and echo.)*

**PROFESSOR 1:** Welcome class, to the first test that will determine if your career in this course will be heaven or hell. I'm going to distribute your test booklets now. Please remember that you will have the entire fifty minutes of the class to write the exam, and after the time is up all booklets must be handed in promptly.

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*(Professor 1 hands out test booklets to student. Special Effects of clock moving forward while student writes test. At end of sequence, student gets up, hands booklet in, and exits stage r. Lights will go down to reset stage to student gathering area. Students enter from both stage r. and stage l.)*

**STUDENT:** I can't believe that test! I am so sure that I just failed. Badly. Some of the diagrams that were on it just made no sense to me at all. Thank goodness this is just the start of the year. I can still make it up.

**FRIEND 1:** Do not worry about it. I just decide to let life happen, as it happens. As they say, "C'est la vie".

**FRIEND 2:** Yeah. And if you still feel bad about it, we can go to the bar later tonight. Maybe pick someone up?

**STUDENT:** Sure, maybe. Give me a call or something later tonight. We'll see what happens. Anyone want to go to Subway for lunch?

**FRIEND 1 & 2:** *(in unison)* Yes!

*(All 3 get up and pack up their books. They exit stage l. while lights fade to black. Lights up with student walking on stage r. with a Subway bag and a bottle of water.)*

**STUDENT:** One of the big things that you find in university life is how much you go out to eat. The school offers some great options for eating right on campus – and you will eat there – but there is also a huge array of fast food restaurants around campus that you can walk to as well. Of course, the winter is usually not a time when you would want to walk around outside. It's cold. This is yet another reason that it is great to have a campus that is almost completely connected.

You saw some friends sitting in a common area. This is a common occurrence in my life as a first-year student. Last year, my high school would have frowned on this sort of activity. However, enter the university, and you are allowed to do this. Of course, in high school you would often not have an hour or more between classes. Here, you may. Sometimes, it could be up to four hours.

In my last little speech, I was talking about the time spent in the hallways. If I stay standing here much longer, I am going to be run over. It is therefore time for me to move on to my next class. It just happens to be an Introduction to Acting class. I really like the class. Today we are going to be doing improvisation and some physical warm up activities. Let's go to class.

*(Lights down. Reset to blank stage. Enter class of 6 people, including the student from stage r. In about 1 minute, enter professor 2. All students put their bags down and stand in a semi-circle facing the audience.)*

**PROFESSOR 2:** Okay, now let's do a warm up before we start class. Everyone, start by rotating your shoulders forward. *(beat)* Now rotate them backward. *(beat)* Shake your hands out vigorously. *(beat)* And stretch and yawn. *(beat)* Good. Now, let's get to work on our improvisation. *(moves to chair & sits down)* You two *(points to student and one of extras)*. Take this card and I want you to create a scene from the text written on it. Don't tell us what it says though.

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*(Professor 2 hands a card to the 2 students. On it should be writing. The text which will be improvised will be **Lovers**. The entire improvised scene should be created at each performance and is up to the performers as to how it will be run.)*

Okay, that was good. Does anyone know what they were trying to show us?

**EXTRA 2:** *(this character can vary from performance)* I thought that they were supposed to be relatives?

**STUDENT:** Sorry. Nope.

**EXTRA 3:** I thought that in some way they were in a relationship.

**PROFESSOR 2:** Yeah, they are in a relationship. Does anyone know what kind though?

**EXTRAS 2 & 3:** *(in unison)* Lovers?

**STUDENT:** That's right.

*(Blackout. Reset to laboratory where Student is sitting at a lab table with a microscope to the right. Lights come up. This scene has no dialogue and will be acted in mime. Student places a slide underneath the microscope, examines it, and begins to take notes. Does this a few more times before lights go down and stage is reset to student standing stage c. with single spot fill.)*

*(speaking to audience)* So now you have seen what a day of classes could possible look like. But the day has just begun for me. Living in residence means that I get to stay here long after class has ended. And with the options available for me on campus, there is always something that you can do.

When you look around at the many bulletin boards all around the school, you find posters not only for books for sale, special lectures that are taking place, and things like that; you also find the kind of poster that invited you to a social event. Whether it is going to the school's bar, having a games night in one of the gyms, or going to a Bible study, there is something there for everyone.

As I can't show you all of the options which are available for a university student, we will just pick one. After all, I am only one person... and as far as I know, I can only be in one place at once. Just getting that out there. Let's first go to a study session, which is another thing you do after classes. It's not all fun and games, there is real work to be done, but believe me, it is worth it. After we study for a little while, we will take a little journey over to the campus bar and see what's happening there.

*(Lights fade on Student. Reset scene to dorm room, where student and one other extra and rehearsing lines from 'Boy Gets Girl' by Rebecca Gillman. They are sitting on 2 chairs, facing each other **N.B.:** This scene requires one male and one female actor. Student could play either part.)*

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*(begin scene)*

**TONY:** I know I should have called first, but I couldn't get through, and I thought, if you had a minute, maybe we could get a sandwich and talk.

**THERESA:** I don't. I'm sorry.

**TONY:** Maybe we could just talk for a minute. *(beat)* I'm not, you know, trying to ask you out or anything. I just wanted to apologize. *(beat)* I feel like I probably came on too strong or something, and I was thinking about what you said about how you didn't think it was fair to ask somebody to take second place in your life, *(beat)* and I thought later, you know, it must have seemed like I wanted to marry you or something. *(beat)* Which is not true. I just want to get to know you. *(beat)* I just want us to be friends. *(small beat)* So I thought I'd just see if you wanted to have lunch and maybe we can be friends.

**THERESA:** No.

**TONY:** Sorry?

**THERESA:** No. I don't think we have anything in common so I don't see any point in trying to be friends. I just don't think we should see each other again. *(end scene)*

**STUDENT:** Did you think we did enough or this to be able to present it in class?

**EXTRA:** I actually think we have it pretty well down. Was there anything else we were supposed to do, besides adding in all of those beats?

**STUDENT:** Not that I can think of. First read through and all, there probably will be more of us being told what we did that worked and what didn't. You heading over to the student center?

**EXTRA:** I sure am. You?

**STUDENT:** Yup. Let's go. The night is still young.

*(Lights down. Reset stage to bar with Student standing at stage c. The following scene will overlap, with mime action taking place while student speaks. The mime actors should just act as if they are in a student bar, having a good time. This is a major improvised scene for these actors. Student will stand at stage c. and do a sort of narration of the events. Anything which student says is happening should be picked up by mime actors and created on stage.)*

The student bar. It's a great place to hang out, meet up with friends, and sometimes even find that special someone. As with any bar, legal age is strictly enforced. If you are not legal, don't bother trying to get in, because you won't. See... there is someone trying to get in with fake identification *(if possible, show fake ID on a projection screen)*. They didn't get in and neither will you. *(student trying to get in with fake ID walks away with head down)* There is always something going on here. Much of the time, there will be a band playing. If you have ever wanted to just get

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up and dance, this could be the place to do it. The food is great and the drinks are reasonably priced. Top that off with a great atmosphere and a newly renovated location, and you have got yourself a top-notch hang out place. Who needs to go off campus when this is right here?

If you aren't legal age, there is still plenty of things for you to do. As I mentioned earlier, there is the games nights, the time spent with friends on and off campus, there is activities for you no matter what religious beliefs you may have, heck, some of the students go on bottle-recycling runs. It truly can be an adventure. And so too will be your time in university. You've heard that high school is the best time of your life, but I tend to disagree with that statement. University will truly be that time. You will meet all sorts of amazing people, from all different backgrounds, and you will find that the newness that they bring to your world will be refreshing. You will meet some of the amazing professors who are on staff here, and they will guide you through your career as a student, building you up to become the trained professional that you want to be. You will be able to participate in the multitude of activities which your students union offers to you. Not only this, you will make lifelong friends. These are the people who, forty years from now, you will still be able to connect with, to call when you have a problem at home, to just be able to talk to. If nothing else that you have seen excites you, then this should. This type of friendship is something to cling to, to be sure to develop fully.

Well, it's time for another day to end. I need to get at least a few hours of sleep before getting back up tomorrow morning and starting another day of class. I hope that this has given you a little bit of a glimpse into how a day in university works, and I hope to see you all in the hallways and common areas. Just always remember to never stop in the middle of a hall – you will be ran over. Time for you to get into the real part of the day – tours. Remember, ask the leaders questions. They want to try and help you out. Time for bed. Ciao.

*(Blackout. All cast will come back out after full blackout for curtain call. Call can be however the director wants it to be – Student should come out last.)*

**FIN**