

Just another face in the crowd

Hello, Sociology 134, my name is 0123456789, nice to meet you. I will be the kid in the middle of the classroom trying to scribble down what I see on the projector. We will probably never talk face to face other than the time I come up to you to reschedule my final.

This is how most introduction courses tend to be. I genuinely feel more welcome getting on CyRide. At least when I step on the bus I get a nod from the driver and the satisfying click of the button that tallies me. This far exceeds anything I receive in a lecture hall.

If you are an underclassman, you know all too well how it feels to be overlooked at Iowa State. You feel like you are just a number, sit through power point presentations filled with hundreds

of peers, then take a multiple choice test over the material. You walk across campus without seeing a familiar face. On top of that, you are taking classes you aren't interested in to fill your requirements. It is still hard for me to figure out why I am in special education as a journalism major.

Teacher to student relationships are non-existent. The only thing that brings hope is getting through the first two years so you can actually indulge in an interactive learning experience.

You grow up your whole life thinking college is going to be a great learning environment. Yes, it is - but not until you've paid your dues. It's perfectly comparable to wanting to be an actor your whole life, then finding yourself

playing the role of Roseanne's husband. Ouch. Wake up call. But of course you are going to do it. You gain national exposure, get paid well, and it leads to more acting jobs. So is it worth it in the long run? Yes. Even if you have to rub her feet while she yells at Darlene.

Anyway, this is a subject that needs to be addressed by college administrators. I don't know if there is an answer to this problem, but I really do believe it can be better. Increase participation. Have an assignment where group projects are encouraged. Diversify teaching techniques and tools. Challenge us in deeper ways than 50 multiple-choice questions. These types of methods will not make class sizes any smaller, but it will make college a more



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well-rounded education.

Introduction courses shouldn't be viewed as an obligation, but rather sparking interest and motivating students to continue their studies. They should lead to an almost clear understanding of what the topic is, and allow students to make a well-educated decision if it is something they want to pursue further.

Why aren't we as students asked more for our opinion on what we prefer and enjoy? As a writer, you have to cater to your audience. As a businessman the customer is always right. Colleges should take more initiative in finding what students want.

You wouldn't have to take our recommendations word for word, but it would be nice to be asked.

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