

Weekly Chats

Purpose: This is a planned-by-the-RA weekly gathering with your floor/section that is informal yet intentional. Whether it takes place in your room/apartment, a common lounge, or one of your resident's rooms or apartment, the purpose is to connect informally with your residents. In the apartments, these weekly chats are hosted by the RA either in their apartment, or by taking treats to another apartment(s). Apartment RAs should focus on inviting 1-2 apartments each week for these intentional chats, rotating to cover all apartments within their section. In the special interest housing community, the SIH RA will rotate hosting intentional chats throughout each of the individual houses each week.

- You must have a plan for your chats in advance, having prepared what 1-2 questions or discussion topics you want to initiate in dialogue that week during this time.
- Keep in mind our six outcomes in Residence Life below, utilizing them to inform what topics or questions you informally bring up during this time. Everything we do in residence life should be purposefully striving to meet one of these outcomes. Feel free to consider inviting a guest (faculty or staff person) to lead the discussion.

As a result of on-campus living, residential students will...

1. Formulate connections to academic learning outside the classroom within a living-learning environment
 2. Purposefully explore the Christian faith and their sense of self through interactions with friends and community members
 3. Demonstrate a commitment to growing in diversity, reconciliation and fostering safe living spaces
 4. Nurture community through hospitality, integrity, and responsibility to their living area
 5. Establish meaningful relationships rooted in respect, belonging and healthy communication
 6. Develop holistic self-sufficient living practices that cultivate healthy coping skills during and after college toward purposeful living
- While food/drinks is something you can provide, these are NOT intended to take a lot of time to prepare/plan for. If you will provide snacks, consider buying in bulk to reuse for several weeks/months so that you are not having to shop regularly. Also consider rotating food to every other week instead of having it every time.
 - IF RESIDENTS DO NOT SHOW UP, reach out to them instead during this block of time you had set aside. Stop by rooms/apartments with the food/drinks you would have provided or go make personal invites to come by. Turn it into a successful Intentional Connection instead.
 - Avenues for meeting these outcomes could include chapel discussions or debriefing other campus programs, classes your residents are taking, current events, professors you have been impacted by or have heard other students talk about, the needs of your residents, RA training topics that could be meaningful for your floor/section to hear and discuss together, etc.
 - **Examples** could include a communal study time (with lighting/ambiance, cookies, etc.), FYS and CCC course content discussions, Academic Show & Tell (what's something each resident has learned recently and wants to share), Collab sharing, having Anne, Bryce, Lyndsay, Doug, Jocelyn, Christy, Kevin or Kris come share with your floor on a pre-selected topic meeting one of our outcomes, watching a short documentary or TED talk, partnering with other student leaders, playing a game or doing a puzzle and having intentional discussion (if you're focusing on

outcome one, include the question “how does this connect to what you have learned in the classroom?” for instance).

Logging: No logging is required. Instead, RDs will ask you what you did for your weekly chat last week and have planned for your weekly chat this week. Utilize your RD as a resource in planning/utilizing these Weekly Chats to the fullest.

Intentional Connections

Purpose: The purpose of this is for each resident to have a meaningful connection with their RA that fosters the student’s learning and development, as well as their comfortability around their RA. The hope is that the student also comes to view their RA as a familiar and trustworthy person.

Logging: RAs will note the theme of their one interaction per resident, per semester. That means roughly doing 15 a month (this number will depend upon how many residents are on your floor/section).

See your RD with any questions about specifics.

Weekly Chat Ideas

Funny

PowerPoint Night

Residents make PowerPoints about people, places, things, or ideas that they are passionate about and (often comically) present them to their peers. Each resident has the opportunity to have the floor.

Karaoke Night

Residents sing along to their favorite songs! Could be a specific theme (Disney, High School Musical, Broadway Musicals, ‘80s, Boy Bands, etc.)

Story Slam

Residents brainstorm for a story and bring it to share in a round-the-campfire style group. Each resident has the floor for a certain amount of time (varies depending on size of the group) to share their story. It may be helpful to have a prompt. For example, stories about specific things like family, where you grew up, culture, travels, learning experiences, etc. You could also do phrase prompts like “It’s been a long time since...” or “This is the story of the first and last time I...”.

Pun Party

Host a contest for the best puns.

Food

Floor/Section Potluck

Each resident brings a food of their choice and residents share together.

Masterchef

Residents compete in a bake or cook off. Judges or residents vote on who's food is the best. Depending on your residents' level of interest you could also film and have a watch party for another weekly chat. For best results choose recipes with fewer ingredients and lower cook time (ex/ brownies, grilled cheese, ramen, ice cream sundaes, etc.)

Cooking class

Residents follow along as the RA, a resident, or other volunteer leads the group in a specific recipe.

Pancake Night or Pre-Church Sunday

Make pancakes in the lounge from like 9:15pm – 10:15pm and people stop by, eat pancakes, and chat as a study break. Come and go thing which keeps the total number of people in the room at one time lower (good for COVID purposes). Connect with a lot of people even if it was brief.

Ranger Ramen cook-off

Residence cook their best ramen version for bragging rights. RA test tastes and decides winner.

Low-Energy

Movie Night

Residents watch a movie together. Best to put out a poll to see what movies they are interested in. Popcorn and pajamas also make great additions to any movie night.

Movie Night

If money were not a concern, what would be your dream job?

Tea Time

Residents can make tea and relax as they chat with the RA.

Self-Care Night

Gather some coloring, snacks, crafts, facemasks, and other goodies for residents to take a break and enjoy! Activities like yoga and painting may also be good additions to a self-care night.

Weekly board game night

[Weekly floor prayer meeting](#)

Gather in the hallway and pray together as a group, then split into groups of 2-3 and pray on own in groups in separate locations. Then reconvene and talk/hang out. Have residents spread

[Weekly Bible studies/Devotions](#)

Talk about growing as people of Christ and issues that are applicable to the residents, such as dealing with stress or other issues. Floor devotions to get to know each other's back stories and get to know each other a little more!

[Crafty](#)

[Bob Ross Paint-Along](#)

Pick a video from Bob Ross' painting video series (available on Netflix and YouTube). Provide the paints, paintbrushes, and canvases for residents to follow along to Bob Ross. Allowing pausing can make the night go on very long. It may be better to ban pausing and call it a "Bob Ross Frenzy" so that residents expect to be rushed and are more compassionate with themselves when their painting's don't come out the way Bob's do.

[Creating a Dream Board](#)

This is a great activity for the beginning of the new year. Residents can cut out photos and letters from magazines and glue on a piece of paper to create a "board" with their hopes and goals for the year ahead.

[Repot/Free Plant](#)

Free plants and repotting event. Residents would come and have plants they could have or repot. Very successful with the apartments. Good opportunity to see some people that were hard to get a hold of.