According to the housing website of The Ohio State University, “**Living on campus offers many advantages and has been proven to enhance students' success at Ohio State” (“Housing”, 2016).** The living conditions and resources offered within residence halls can have an effect on the student and their future success. It is important that universities pay attention to these conditions to help their students be successful. Some universities have programs within their residence halls called learning communities that may help students be more successful. If universities are going to advertise these programs, they should make sure they have a positive effect on students. Students living in sororities and fraternities may not be as successful as those living within residence halls. Universities may want to consider making students wait to join a sorority or fraternity. Men and women perform differently throughout their college career and their concerns and problems are different. Because of this, their problems and concerns should be addressed differently. They could be split up a little bit in residence halls so they can be around other students who may have the same concerns as them. There are quite a few things universities have to keep in mind when taking care of their residence halls. Student housing could have a very positive impact on student success if the better resources are offered and the living conditions are better.

**Context: describe situation**

**3 arguments**

The academic experiences of male and female students are different in college. Statistically, males and females living in residence halls perform their best at different times in their college career. Women seem to do better in their senior year, while men seem to perform best in their junior year (Wang, Arboleda, Shelley, & Whalen, 2004). Each of their difference need to be considered in the planning how men and women should be set up within a residence hall. It may be a good idea to have the housing include both genders in one building but have them split up by different floors or wings of the building. According to Ikea Tucker, co-ed housing is a good thing because it allows students to learn about and understand the opposite gender since they will have to work with them in their future careers (I. Tucker, personal communication, March 24, 2016).

Women seem to become more distracted with the social environment of residence halls than men. In a study done by Wang, Arboleda, Shelley, and Whalen, women who reported “drinking less during the previous year did better academically” (2004). This is probably because they would be able to focus on their academics better so they performed better. Some female students may have wanted to be more successful academically so they avoided the distractions of alcohol. “Same-sex buildings seem to serve men better academically than they benefit women” so female students may want to consider pushing their universities to change their same-sex buildings, or try to live in a co-ed residence hall. Universities should make sure that all types of housing offered is beneficial to all students.

Men do not seem to be as involved in their residence halls. Wang, Arboleda, Shelley, and Whalen, felt that “men should be encouraged to get involved in the residence halls, but to balance their involvement with academic study” (2004). It is important to be involved in college because it shows employers that the student can balance other activities with their academics. In a study done, men who claimed to have smoked less in their previous year were successful academically (Wang, Arboleda, Shelley, & Whalen, 2004). These men might have been more devoted to their studies so this is why they didn’t smoke. Same-sex residence halls accommodate men better so it may be good for men to live within them if they want to be academically successful but in the future, they will have to work with women. It may be better for men to live in co-ed living spaces so they can be in an environment with women to help them understand them better.

Some people may object to the idea of co-ed living and that same-sex housing is a better option because they feel co-ed housing can be more distracting to the students. Although this may be the case, students will need to adjust being around the opposite gender at some point before they would join the work force. Same-sex housing is not as beneficial to women as it is for men so it is not as good of an option for them. Universities should consider changing the way genders are split up the genders residence halls. It may be beneficial to keep men and women split up on floors or wings of a residence halls so they still have access to the benefits of same-sex housing while also being able to interact with the opposite gender in their living space.

A learning community or living-learning program is “a group of students who live together on a residence hall floor with common major, career and/or personal interests” (“Learning communities,” 2016). Students living within them tend to have more access to resources that will help them be more successful. According to some studies, “that students find greater friendliness and warmth in their environments than do those in non-L/L residence halls” (Longerbeam, Inkelas, & Brower, 2007). Universities should want all of their students to enjoy the living spaces they offer to them. Some universities may want to consider incorporating small learning communities into all residences halls to give their students the best experience they can.

It has been shown in a few studies that learning communities or L/L programs do not actually have as much as an effect on students as people may think. According to a study done by Longerbeam, Inkelas, and Brower, there are **“**no significant differences between students living in L/L buildings and those not in L/L buildings on their intellectual growth or their use on consequences of alcohol” (2007). If these programs have little effect on the students, universities may want to consider changing the programs. The offices in charge of these programs could also consider putting a program similar to this in all residence halls so that any student that wants to be more successful has access to the resources they offer.

Learning communities appear to “foster an overall sense of social support” rather than academic support (Longerbeam, Inkelas, & Brower, 2007). If this is the case, then a learning community seems to be more of a counseling program rather than an academic one. Most students already have access to a counselor or some other source of social support so there may not be a need for a program that also fosters this type of support. The more advanced interactions the students within learning communities are having may be what is contributing to their intellectual growth (Longerbeam, Inkelas, and & Brower, 2007). A system called the dyad concept could be implemented in some residence halls. This concept “places two students in a position to work together to achieve predetermined goals and objectives within each resident hall wing” (Murphy & Eddy, 1997). This would be very beneficial to students since they would have one on one interaction with another student to help them both be successful.

Some universities should consider removing or changing their current learning communities since these programs may not actually have much of an impact on their students’ intellectual growth. The dyad concept is something else schools could consider implementing in their residence halls. Some people may object to making these changes since there are some positive effects of learning communities. According to housing.osu.edu, learning communities offer a “direct connection to the classroom experience” and staff members that are dedicated to make sure students are successful (“Learning Communities”, 2016). Some students who want to be successful, apply to live in these learning communities and still aren’t placed in them. If universities want all of their students to be successful, they should make sure all students have access to the resources they offer. Staff members in most residence halls seem interested in helping the students. In most residence halls, the staff monitors the behavior of the students to help keep them out of trouble and on the right track.

Sororities and fraternities are something many college students are interested in being involved in. They offer many great opportunities to students but students should be required to live in a residence hall before they can be a part of these organizations. Ikea Tucker, a hall director at the Ohio State University, said that she feels that students need to be given more time to mature before they should be able to join a fraternity or sorority (I. Tucker, personal communication, March 24, 2016). Students within residence halls are monitored more than those that live in a sorority or fraternity house.

Students living in residence halls appear to be more successful academically compared to those living in sororities and fraternities. According to a study done by Larry D. Long, students were more satisfied with the living conditions of residence halls because they felt safer and more secure within them (2014). Residence halls are locked most of the time and students need a student ID to get inside. In a sorority or fraternity, strangers may be inside and out of the house because there are so many students living there. Sororities and fraternities are often the scene of parties which could lead to many safety issues since most of the time alcohol is added to the mix.

Students appear to perform different in their academics depending upon where they live. Statistically, both males and females have a lower GPA than students living in fraternities and sororities (Long, 2014). This could be caused by a few different things. There may be more distractions inside a sorority or fraternity. There are often study rooms within residence halls if students have a hard time studying in their room and a place like this may not be offered in a sorority or fraternity. Students living in residence halls are also closer to the resources offered on campus. Students are more likely to use the resources offered to them if they are convenient to get to. Students who are members of a sorority or fraternity are also more likely to binge drink and consume alcohol more frequently. These drinking habits could keep them from reaching their full potential when it comes to academics.

Students need a little bit of time to adapt to living on their own and a residence hall is a great place for them to learn to adapt. There is more structure within a residence hall so students can try to mature on their own but there is still the staff in the building for them to rely on when they need help. Once students have matured more, then they should be able to join a sorority or fraternity. People may be opposed to making students wait to become members of a chapter. Members or sororities and fraternities tend to have a “reported a higher degree of peer interaction” but universities could do more to make sure students in residence halls are getting more peer interaction (Long, 2014). Students living within residence halls do not seem to enjoy the programming provided to them as much as members of a sorority or fraternity. This is most likely because the fraternities and sororities “are generally responsible organizing the programs that are offered in their organizations” (Long, 2014). More could be done to allow students in residence halls be a part of the planning of the programs they are involved in. It is important that students are giving some time to mature before joining a sorority or fraternity.

A student’s future success is effected by the living conditions and resources offered within the student housing offered on their campus. It is necessary for universities pay attention to these conditions to help their students have a more successful future. Some universities have programs within their residence halls called learning communities that may help students be more successful. If universities are going to advertise these programs, they should make sure they have a positive effect on students. Students living in sororities and fraternities may not be as successful as those living within residence halls. Universities may want to consider making students wait to join a sorority or fraternity. Men and women perform differently throughout their college career and their concerns and problems are different. Because of this, their problems and concerns should be addressed differently. They should be split up at least a little bit in residence halls so they can be around other students who may have the same concerns as them.

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