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Lemonade for a Windowless Room

This little blog post isn't just about staying in a room without windows – it's about making due with what you are given. Despite the resources that The Washington Center willingly provides, there will always be instances where certain aspects may not initially live up to your expectations.

It's not always roses, but that's not to say you can't grow them yourself. When I first arrived in D.C., I was completely exhausted from travelling on a volunteer trip and helping one of my family members who had taken ill on my pit stop back home – all within a four day period. All this to say, I was not exactly looking for the excitement of D.C. quite yet. I was looking for a bed, and some water to throw on my face.

Sometimes that is how it all starts. A little rough, a little so-so, and then slowly but surely you begin to see the possibilities. I was assigned a windowless room at TWC's Residential and Academic Facility, but with some time and patience, I fought the urge to let the viewless hub contain my imagination for a cozy little isolation cave. When life hands you lemons, do your best to make lemonade... or maybe a citrus glaze for some salmon or something.

Now for the good stuff.

I'm afraid I won't be discussing the artful complexities of Beyonce's latest album. No, instead I will be giving some upsides about living in a space that may lack a natural light source. Some TWC interns have a bedroom window (and some do not), but here are the perks of the windowless options:

1. 24 Hours of Natural Darkness

This might sound depressing or even a little scary, but being immersed in complete darkness is a necessary part of a good night's rest. Living in a shoebox bedroom guarantees that you will have no strips of moonlight illuminating your room at night, and no early rays of sunshine to shorten your rest in the morning.

2. Less is More in Decor

You may see some TWC participants lugging in or investing in room decorations to brighten up their rooms. With a shoebox apartment, room decor is lot simpler than you think. Just waltz yourself to the closest Walmart, and ask for some string lights. They may say they are out of season, but just keep asking until someone directs you to an aisle that may or may not have a category. There you will find all the decoration you need. Without breaking your bank, these little bad boys not only help to illuminate the darkness, but give your room a nice cozy feel.



If you're feeling extra, go to a CVS nearby and print off some of those photos you've been keeping locked away in your phone. With these you can make little

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collages around your room and create views that mean something to you.

3. Little to No Distraction

If you are more of a person who prefers working from home—more specifically from his/her room—then a shoebox apartment provides the perfect insulation for your focus (especially for those TWC courses once a week). I cannot speak for what you have in your room, but with no windows, you won't be tempted to space out or stare intently at people walking by on the street. If a bird were to fly into a window, you wouldn't know anything about it, and you're safe from questioning. Your shoebox is your own little sanctuary.

4. Privacy

With a room without a window, you can't see other people, thus no one can see you either (with the exception of an open door). Act with your own discretion on that matter.

5. Motivation to Get Out & About

Eventually you will grow tired of the above mentioned perks (at least I hope you will), and you will want to expose your face to a bit of Vitamin D. Due to the lack of a view, living in a shoebox apartment can seem really isolating, and this could be a motivating factor to make friends/see the D.C. sights.

Shoutout to all the shoebox folks out there!

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