In November 2008, United States voters will be greeted with the opportunity to elect a new leader for this country. Will your voice be heard? Are you going to make your vote count? Who will you vote for and why?

It has been said that the most significant driving force for a candidate to acquire votes is their appearance. It is time that we as voters take the time to research the issues and allow ourselves to look beyond appearance.

Voting Tips:

1. Research each candidate. You want to be familiar with where each candidate stands on each issue and take into consideration the repercussions of each stance.
2. A part of that research can be to simply converse with a variety of people: young, old, republicans, democrats, students, professors, senior citizens, etc.
3. Reading the newspaper is an excellent way to keep up with political matters.
4. Many of us fall into voting for a candidate only because they represent our political party. Once again, the issues are more important than which party the candidate is representing.
5. Know who the front runners are for each party.
6. Know the issues.

8 Issues:
1. Abortion
2. Gay Marriage
3. Global Warming
4. Health Care
5. Immigration
6. Iran
7. Iraq
8. Stem Cell Research

Being in my fifth year at Colorado State University, I have had a great deal of experience in all realms of college life. I have learned many lessons and feel it is my duty to share those lessons.

From the academic perspective it is not in your advantage to play the catch up game. Instead stay ahead of yourself. Prepare yourself mentally and physically for school. Mentally, meaning to gather your thoughts. Prepare your mind for a challenging year by telling yourself the obstacles you will most likely be faced with; so when you are really hit with a mountain of assignments and more work hours than you desired, you will be ready. Physically, by eating right, getting enough exercise, and sleeping more than six hours per night. The best way to get everything done is by managing your time. Plan your week out ahead of time. Keep a planner and delegate your tasks to the hour. Schedule your homework, study, workout, lunch, dinner, and down time. Seeing your daily schedule you will have a realistic idea of how much time you have for each task, therefore enabling yourself to be ahead of the game.