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collage
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A 16-year-old's Guide to Adulthood

satire

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Welcome! By purchasing this guide, you have taken the first proper step to prepare for adulthood, which everyone knows begins promptly at age 16, not a second later. So, get ready, it's time to optimize your teenage years before they expire.

Step 1: The foundation

By 16, there are things you must already have planned: an intended major, a backup major, a double major, and three safety minors. Remember, if you don't have your exact career picked out by junior year, colleges will assume you lack any direction or ambition in life.

Step 2: Your brand

A 16 year-old with no brand is a ghost. What do you stand for? What are your talents? Why haven't you started to make money off of your hobbies yet? So, pick an aesthetic, even if it feels nothing like your own personality. Commit and abandon everything else. Authenticity is optional, but consistency is not.

Step 3: Choose a college

The average teenager might not know how to do taxes, cook a chicken or fold a fitted sheet, but they should absolutely be expected to make a \$100,000 decision while running on cafeteria pizza.

To pick your college, ensure two things: a prestigious name and a pamphlet with diverse smiles. Under no circumstances, choose something you like, something affordable, or something that would allow you to have any more than four hours of sleep a night. How else will you grow?

Step 4: Prepare for the workforce

It is essential you obtain real world experience by working internships so competitive that they require a five page minimum resume, three professional references and a DEEP passion for ____.

If you cry during your interview, you will be considered emotionally immature, but if you smile too much, you're unprofessional. Find the perfect balance by emotionally disassociating.

Step 5: Why?

Your youth is not for wasting, exploring, or, God forbid, having fun. Irresponsible behavior includes reading a book you like, going outside, taking a nap and enjoying yourself. Every moment should be curated into a future you choose.

Final thoughts: The end

Sure, you're only sixteen, but in the eyes of society, you are essentially an adult. You must act fast. Optimize every second and don't blink.

If you dare waste your youth, you might accidentally enjoy it.

And where's the productivity in that? **e**