

## **Don't Take No for An Answer: Self Advocacy in Postsecondary Education**

Principles of Self Advocacy in Postsecondary Education:

- Come prepared, whenever possible.
- Plan ahead but plan to think on your feet, too.
- If the decision-making process feels too rushed...it is. Try to buy some time.
- Get a personalized answer.
- Restate the response/answer you heard to check for accuracy.
- Take answers "under advisement."
- Get the name of the person you talked to.
- Get the name of the point person for your question...Deans can sometimes work around rules that others can't.

To get a high-quality response, try...

1. "If you were me...what would you do?" (and variations designed to inspire empathy)
2. "What are the pluses and minuses of doing it that way?" (Enlisting knowledgeable people to help you weigh choices) resources at the institution)
3. "Are there other departments...offices...people that could help me?" (Enlisting additional help.)

***Information comes in layers.***

Student Bill of Rights & Responsibilities

1. You have the right to have questions.
2. You have the right to have those questions answered for your context.
3. You have the right to be reminded of the answers a couple of times.
4. You have the right to have the basis for important answers in writing.
5. You have the responsibility to identify, as closely as possible, what the problem is.
6. You have the responsibility to consider the answer(s) you've received.