My Midd Retreat Fall 2012

The aim of this student-led retreat is to provide incoming Middlebury students the social tools necessary to feel comfortable on campus regardless of how they identify. This retreat intends to build a network of students who will help each other more effectively navigate Middlebury College’s somewhat unfamiliar, social and academic environments. In a safe and positive atmosphere, the retreat will act as a medium for students to meet other first-years, exploring both anxieties and ambitions. Over the course of a weekend, 25 first-year students will engage in activities facilitated by upper-classmen from various backgrounds. At the same time we intend to create an environment that fosters group discussions about home, Middlebury, and the differences between the two. We hope students will leave the retreat with support and a heightened sense of self.

Mentor Program:
After the retreat, we will continue the discussions that we began during the retreat through a mentor program. The small groups from the retreat will continue to meet with their respective facilitators to talk about their lives at Middlebury, asking questions about the positives and negatives of life at college. The students will create a schedule to meet on a regular basis.

We are looking for a group of students:
• From a broad array of perspectives and experiences,
• With an openness to making connections through honest dialogue,
• With a willingness to discuss the many issues and anxieties involved with adjusting to Middlebury.

We hope a community of students who best exemplify these traits will emerge and benefit from this retreat.