

What's the deal with...

NOISE VIOLATIONS?

Imagine for a moment you are **studying** for your calculus midterm or you are writing a philosophy paper. Maybe you are trying to get some sleep before the big game or just need some **peace** and quiet. You call one of GW's residence halls home, and share your space with roommates, suitemates, floor mates, and countless guests. Constant noise can be **maddening** – and you have every right to expect a reasonable degree of **quiet**. GW's approach is that the "right to quiet always supersedes the right to make noise."

But what does *that* mean?

The University has policies designed to make the **transition** to residence hall living as **stress-free** as possible. These regulations are some of the minimum expectations GW has of its students. One of the most important **standards** of behavior is respect for others. Maintaining a **reasonable** amount of quiet in the residence halls is a key element of **mutual respect**.

How does that affect life at GW?

The Center for Student Engagement, GW Housing, and the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities are committed to the concept of students **learning** for themselves to set **limits** on their own behavior. Part of this progressive project involves students creating Roommate Contracts to set **minimum expectations** and requirements for their personal and shared living environment. In addition, students often come together through their respective Residential Advisory Council (RAC) to set baseline expectations for the community. Topics discussed include limits on noise within the community, including quiet hours, and the preferred way of dealing with a roommate or floor mate who is disturbing others.

The "Code of Student Conduct" also sets limits on students' boisterous behavior. Making excessive noise either inside or outside a building is **Disorderly Conduct** and can result in disciplinary action taken by the University.

GW is located in the heart of Washington, D.C. – a large, **urban environment** that brings with it a certain level of noise. With a renowned, and active, hospital on campus and important government buildings nearby, sirens and other **traffic noise** are loud enough! The main thing to remember about noise at GW is that respect should be your guide. Think how awful it would be for someone else to **disturb** you at a critical moment; would you want to make someone else feel the same way?

What if I make too much noise?

First of all, someone will most likely ask you to quiet down. The **prudent** and respectful thing to do is to settle down. Other consequences can also occur. Someone may call the GW Police Department. When that happens, a **report** is then forwarded to the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities, and **disciplinary action** may be taken by the University. You may receive an administrative written warning or have a Disciplinary Conference. Especially serious and **repeated** noise violations can result in **sanctions**, including but not limited to, Censure and Disciplinary Probation.

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