A Moral Voyage: The Search for a Study Spot

I feel like this thesis makes me write like I’m running out of time! But I’ve noticed one thing – I cannot write my thesis at the desk in my room. It’s impossible! I get distracted by the TV in my common room, the food in my kitchen, or the messiness of my side of the bedroom – everything in the world except my actual thesis. So, earlier this week, I set off in search of the perfect study spot on campus.

Some places I tried first (or that were recommended to me):

- Roots and the DCs had too much noise...
- Herter didn’t have enough activity...
- the Campus Center had awkward seating...
- the Student Union fills up quickly...
- Amherst has some nice locations, but lugging all my stuff and waiting for the bus can be a hassle...
- and it’s too cold to work outside...

I finally settled where most of us end up – the library. Trudging up the stairs, I found myself continuing this Goldilocks routine with each floor – I didn’t want a quiet floor, but I also didn’t want too many people, I wanted some sort of a table but nothing as
formal as a desk, and I had to have some view so I could actually tell that time was passing. The library has lots of options for study spaces – 23 floors, in fact – and several floors that fit this description. But I finally settled on Floor 9, because it best fit me and my needs. I can lay out my notes and books on the small table, relax in the chair but still stay focused, and occasionally glance out the window to foot traffic around the pond. And Procrastination Station is just an elevator-ride away when I’m hungry - close enough in an emergency situation, but far enough that I won’t be wandering out of boredom.
I know, I know…it seems silly to waste so much time on a study location, especially when there is work to be done. But I’m definitely of the mindset that the right environment can make all the difference. To produce my best work, I need to be in a place where I can thrive as a student and researcher.

**Blog Column:**  
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