Kate,

I very much appreciate you driving me to get xrays this week – even if you stole my headphones in the process. Lesson learned: don’t email and walk, kids. It’s not worth it.

A good thing did come out of the most embarrassing fall down a single step to ever take place, I got so much work done. With an ankle out of commission, I was stranded in a chair all day. New study tip? If you need to get work done for 8 hours straight, give yourself a bad sprain.

Seriously though, this week I want to chat about staying focused. We’re so close to the end, don’t give up now. Normally, this is where I’d say “I know the nice weather makes you want to study even less,” but Monday’s little snow storm eliminates the need.

Google calendar is going to be your best friend. There is no way you can keep track of every deadline, study session, internship interview, and final exam all in your head. The Google calendar attached to your UMass email is so easy to adjust when times and dates change. It also lets you look weeks or even months ahead if you need to. Use it.

As someone who rarely has exams in their major, I get how quickly papers can add up
at the end of the year. I have one in every class! I personally like to sit down and crank a paper out in one sitting. Doing a little day by day ruins the momentum for me. Having to write 5 ten page papers seems like a daunting task. My advice is to pick one and just start writing, get it all out on the page and give yourself enough time to revise. When you start losing steam or focus on one paper, switch to the next. You can always come back to the other one later.

Studying in Ireland kind of felt like “Whose Line is it Anyway” where the rules were made up and points didn’t matter so I don’t have any real paper writing tips from abroad. But, Dad is on his way back to Dublin for work and I’m incredibly jealous. My tip for him: bring us back some Butler's chocolate! I thought I’d include a picture of us with him for this week’s photo to sweeten him up.

Now get back to studying.

My door is always open.

See you around,

Marie

**Blog Column:**
Letters to Kate

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