

Hi, I'm Joey (any pronouns) and I am beyond excited to be joining you as your 2023-24 (**insert floor #s here**) RA!

I'm originally from the Pacific Northwest, so I understand the difficulties that come with adjusting to a new place like Chicago. I can assure you, it gets easier by the day, and when you find that right group of people to navigate college with, you'll be able to feel at home no matter where you go.

A little bit about me: my artistic practice leans heavily in film & video, with my main focus being on animation, character design, and screenwriting. Through these mediums I like to build narratives as a means to explore current issues and their prevalence among a wide variety of people.

If you still struggle to define what your artistic pursuit is, don't sweat it. This is what college is for. If you ever need someone to bounce ideas off of when the inevitable mid-semester art block hits, you know where to find me. I would also suggest using your peers as a resource; the city hosts a diverse community of artists, all of whom can offer a unique perspective on how you can further drive your work.

The job of a Resident Advisor is to make all residents feel welcome while ensuring that they make healthy, safe decisions during their time in the halls. While I recognize the importance of fostering an open-minded environment where everybody can express themselves freely, I want to encourage you all to treat the communal spaces with respect & cleanliness, for consideration of yourself, your neighbors, and the cleaning staff. On a more personal note, I understand how overwhelmingly lonely it can be as a young person sometimes. If you ever need someone to talk to, to make you a home-cooked meal, to help with a project, or just chill out and listen to music with, my door is always open. All you have to do is knock.

Moreover, the best thing you can do to feel more at home on campus is *get to know your community*. I know it sounds corny, but trust me. Want to make friends? Attend the RA programs. Participate in clubs. Connect with people in your classes. These are all great ways to attract people with similar interests. In fact, many of my long-term college friendships were cultivated this way. RAs hold events and activities on a nearly weekly basis, so just know you'll always have a back-up if your Hinge date flakes out on you.

You can reach me at jmaben@saic.edu. Or you can knock on my door if I'm home.

See you soon!

Joey.