How to Appear Normal in College
(A Guide for Homeschoolers)

By Victoria Abbott

Phase One.
- Go to college early.
- Tell everyone you were homeschooled.
- Make friends with everyone.
- Learn what it’s like to be a part of a group.
- Pick no favorites.
- Date no one.
- Hide your loneliness.
- Hide your past from your friends
- Hide your past from yourself.
- Break down.
- Go to a counselor.
- Keep this a secret.
- Keep your razor a secret.
- Keep your porn a secret.
- Get your first B.
- Turn 18.

Phase Two.
- Go home for Christmas.
- Share funny anecdotes with your family.
- Share nothing else with your family.
- Do not rock the boat.
- Smoke your first cigar with Dad.
- Try telling Dad you’re in therapy.
- Try not being shocked when he has to ask why.
- Be shocked later.
- Get back to school and pick three friends.
- Ignore all other friends.
- Start to remember everything.
- Share everything.
- Hate everything.
- Blame your parents.

**Phase Three.**
- Don’t go home again.
- Learn to fake independence.
- Get depressed and drink.
- Get depressed and smoke.
- Get depressed and date the kind of guy who proves you have daddy issues.
- Hate God.
- Get more B’s.
- Get blue-collar jobs to keep you humble.
- Get blue-collar jobs to keep you arrogant.
- Give fancy names to your problems.
- Learn to knit.
- Take antidepressants.
- Lose your friends.
- Hit rock bottom.
- Finally drop out.
- Finally go home.
- Turn 19.

**Phase Four.**
- Get chubby.
- Cut off all your hair.
- Get another job.
- Read more.
- Tell God you don’t hate Him anymore.
- Date a good guy.
- Go back to school.
- Make some friends.
- Share some things with some.
- Hide some things from others.
- Change your major.
- Read even more.
- Have an on/off relationship with alcohol.
- Have an on/off relationship with Dad.
- Visit Ireland.
- Watch your hair grow back.
- Smile as often as you can.
- Admit you’re a total nerd.

**Phase Five.**
- Just stop telling everyone you were homeschooled.