

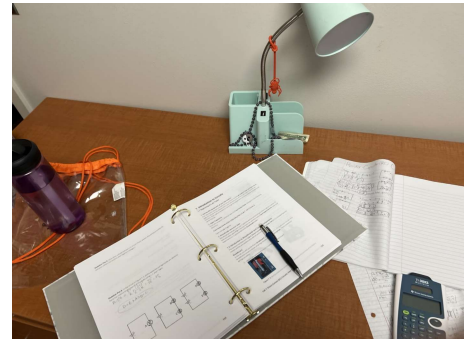
## The Art of Floor

The floor. The natural sitting grounds of our ancestors. An efficient study space that offers ample room to spread any kind of school work in all directions. A comfortable area to rest in nearly any position imaginable. It truly is a magical place, and my favorite space to read and work. I wrote this entire paragraph on the floor, and I'll probably write most of the rest of the essay there, too.

To be clear, I don't have anything against desks or chairs. I love a good desk. They can help me convince my brain that it's study time, not lunch time or



nap time or think-about-that-cool-bug-I-saw-yesterday time (there was a praying mantis that was camouflaged with the sidewalk! How crazy is that?). When I'm reading my Physics homework

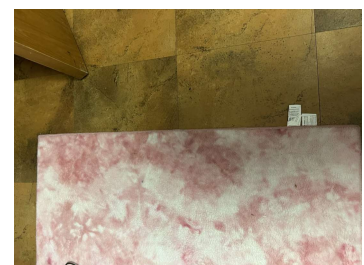


or my Statistics textbook, I'm often at my desk, moderately

focused on my work. Sometimes, I'll need more focus than I can get at my desk in my room.

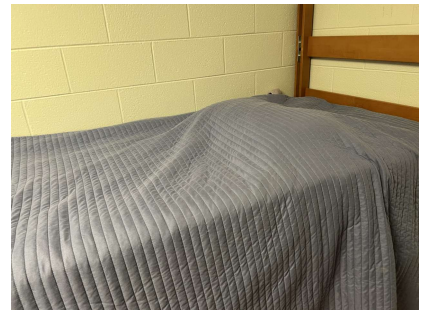
That's when I go to the library. For take-home quizzes or chemistry lab reports, I'll settle down to read and work in one of the pods on the 4th floor of Newman Library. The enclosed space helps me stay on topic, and the set up of the desk makes it easy to write on two papers while looking at a computer screen. While I appreciate having options for different activities, the floor is still my favorite place to read.

The best favorite part of the floor to sit on is the rug in my dorm room. I like my surroundings to be mildly interesting, but not distracting. I think my room does this well. There's enough color in the room that



when I look up, pulled off topic by some thought, I can see the color and think, *Oh, look, teal*. Then, I'll forget whatever I was thinking about, and I can focus on my reading emails or paperwork again. Alternatively, I might notice how soft the rug is, or sip some orange juice and think about the flavor to get back on track. When I keep getting off track, I add in instrumental music. It can drown out my background thoughts without distracting from the important thoughts about my work. Then, I can finally finish what I need to do.

Despite being a college student, not all of my time is taken up by academics and errands. I do have leisure time. While I favor desks for academics, I like reading books and scrolling through Instagram on my bed. My bed is soft, and when I sit on it I feel more relaxed, which is usually how I want to feel when I read for fun. I enjoy looking at what my friends are doing or thinking about. I'd prefer not to feel stressed out by my school or other demands then, so relaxing in bed is a good way to get in the headspace for Instagram. The books I read are usually on my phone. I use an app that lets me borrow ebooks from the Blacksburg library. I like reading fiction books for leisure, usually science fiction or mystery. Maybe some of the science ones can give me an idea of what to do after college.



At this point, you may be wondering whether I still think the floor is the best place to sit. It might seem that I'm a turncoat for sitting on beds. Fear not! I can assure you that I am still loyal to the floor first and foremost. While I often read for fun on my bed, I sometimes do it on the floor, too. This reading might consist of books or the rules to some board game I'm playing with friends. Sometimes I'll start reading before finding a chair to sit in. I don't intentionally sit

on the floor for these activities, but somehow I always seem to end up there. Clearly, it is too good for me to resist.

One other place I regularly read is less of a place and more of an action. When I'm reading maps to navigate or reading the Hokie Dining page on my way to a dining hall, I'll read while I'm walking. When I know where I'm going, I might skim over emails as well. If I find anything that looks promising, I will make a note of it and save it to read in-depth later. This is the most exciting type of reading, since I'm still not used to reading while I'm traveling. It's like walking across campus wearing a blindfold. There's always that enticing risk to it. Will I walk into the path of a scooter? Will I notice the stairs before I fall down them? Will I remember to look before crossing the road? I don't know until I try! So far, I haven't had any major accidents.

It might seem like a bad idea to walk while reading if I haven't learned to notice when there are stairs in front of me. Maybe it is a bad idea, but it's also efficient. The Virginia Tech campus is pretty big, so I spend much of my time walking from one place to another. Multitasking by reading makes sense. I can free up some of the time I would spend reading for other activities, like homework, and who doesn't want more quality one-on-one time with homework? If I do end up falling down stairs or getting hit by a car, then I would lose more time than I gained, but so far that hasn't happened. It's difficult to truly believe in consequences when they have not yet occurred, so I'll probably keep reading like this until I get injured or get good at it.

I haven't mentioned the floor in a while, which might seem out of character, so here I am to bring it up again. You might be wondering where my beloved floor has been in my efficient walking-reading. That's easy. Just guess what I'm walking on. You've probably got it right: the

floor! Now, I'll admit that walking on the floor is not the same as sitting down on it for a read, but that just goes to show how versatile the floor is. There is much to love about it.

So what is it about the floor that makes it my favorite place? I've explained some of its merits, but I've also described what I like about other spaces. What makes the floor better? There are certainly logical reasons for me to favor it. Sitting on the floor allows more focus than walking, more work space than the desk or the bed, and more stimulus than the library. However, I like the floor because of instinct more than reason. Maybe it feels natural after sitting on the ground in elementary school during morning meetings and other activities. Maybe I just naturally like being close to the ground. I don't know why, but if I have the option to sit on the floor, that is where I end up.

I spend much of my day reading in different ways and different places. There's so much to read for school, for life, and for entertainment. With each different way of reading, there are places that make sense to read them. Books and social media can be read well in bed, homework and textbooks can be read at a desk, lab reports and quizzes can be read in the library, and menus and emails can be read while walking. The floor, however, is a good place to read all of these, as well as games and paperwork. It is my favorite place to read, write, and just sit. Even with all the sitting technology that humans have developed over the ages, the ground remains an ideal place to sit.