**Subject Line:** **College Courses Decoded**

Dear**[Student]**,

College courses come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Make sure you understand the details of each type and format as you make your course selections.

* **Lecture:** Lectures are large classes led by a professor who gives oral presentations about a specific subject. These classes usually take place in big rooms with stadium seating.
* **Discussion:** Discussion sections are classes related to a lecture, where small groups of students gather to dive deeper into the content taught in a lecture. These are often led by a teaching assistant (TA).
* **Seminar:** Seminars are smaller classes centered on a specific topic led by a professor.
* **Lab:** Labs are science classes that allow students to use the knowledge learned in other classes in a laboratory setting. For example, biology students might take a lab to get experience dissecting an animal.
* **Studio:** Studio classes are hands-on courses for students in the arts. For example, students who are pursuing a degree in fine arts might take a studio class in painting or basic drawing where there is opportunity to apply the techniques learned in class.
* **Independent Study:** Independent study allows an individual student to pursue a project and topic for course credit under the supervision of a faculty member or professor. Independent study projects typically require approval and are granted primarily to major-seeking students.

Read the [full article](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents/college-planning-articles/college-courses-decoded.html) to learn more about college classes.

**[Signature]**