Living away from home can be exciting, but the choices can be overwhelming, especially in an urban environment like Indianapolis. If off-campus living is in your plans, the Office of Student Advocacy and Support can provide some helpful tips.

Life Skill No. 5
Dependability

IUPUI Office of Student Advocacy and Support
Division of Student Affairs
Tips for Off-Campus Living

From selecting an apartment to developing a roommate contract to understanding the terms of your lease, there is a lot to consider when living off campus. The Office of Student Advocacy and Support encourages you to consider the following when selecting an off-campus property:

1. **Budget**
   - How much can you afford to pay in rent and utilities each month?
   - Are you willing and able to spend more money for certain amenities?

2. **Location**
   - Can you afford to live downtown? If not, in what areas are you willing to live?
   - What are your transportation options and expenses based on your location?

3. **Safety and Security**
   - What features, such as security cameras, locked building entry, on-site security guard, fenced property, and emergency lights, are important to you?
   - Check out indy.safetown.org for crime information in Indianapolis.

4. **Amenities**
   - What appliances are available, and how modern are they? Where are the laundry facilities?
   - What are your must-have amenities, such as pet restrictions, and on-site fitness facilities?

5. **Transportation**
   - Will you need a car? Where will you park it on and off campus?
   - If you plan to walk or bike, what is the path to and from campus?
   - Where is the nearest IndyGo bus stop, and how frequently does the bus run?

6. **Roommates**
   - If you are planning to have a roommate, what are their sleeping, studying, and socializing habits? How do they match yours?
   - If you need help finding a roommate, check out IU Classifieds at One.iu.edu.

7. **Fees**
   - In addition to monthly rent, what fees such as a security deposit, application and administrative fees, and prorated rent expenses does the property assess?

8. **Lease Terms**
   - Is a 12-month lease required, or does the property offer shorter-term leases?
   - Can you sublease your apartment during months you will not be living there?
   - What are your options if you need to break your lease?

The Office of Student Advocacy and Support offers many resources to help you navigate off-campus living. Visit offcampushousing.iupui.edu or Campus Center 270 for sample budget sheets, damage checklists, sublease and roommate agreements, landlord-tenant information sheets, and more information to make your off-campus or commuter experience great.