Sustainable DIY Project
New Notebook

This Do-It-Yourself project is great for an end-of-the-year floor program. Building your own new notebook out of the paper you didn’t use from your old notebooks helps everyone clean out their dorm room and recycle some of their old school supplies. So not only are you making something practical and creating some final bonding time for your residents, but you are also diverting waste from landfills and keeping the planet cleaner for our future.

What You Will Need

- Scrap paper that is all the same size (preferable around 40 sheets minimum)
- 3 large binder clips
- Scraps of cardboard cut into 1” inch strips (raid your hall's recycling bin for cereal/pizza boxes!)
- Elmer's glue or glue gun
- Paint brush
- Decorative scrap paper
- Decorative tape

Source:
Project Steps

1. Fold 40 sheets of 8 ½” x 11” scrap paper in half, hamburger style. Be precise, or the edges of your notebook will be uneven.

2. Stack the folded pages. Line up the folded sides with other folded sides, and the not folded sides with the not folded sides.

3. Keeping the pages evenly lined up, place a strip of cardboard slightly below the top edge of the folded edges. Attach the cardboard to the paper with the binder clips. Note that if the cardboard is flush with the paper, you will get glue on the cardboard, which makes things messier.

4. Squeeze lines of glue along the edges avoiding the cardboard. Use the paint brush to even it along the top edge.

Source:
5. Let dry and repeat 4 or 5 times, until you have a coat of clear glue that holds the edges together. Once the glue has dried for the last time, remove the binder clips. The pages should be secured together if all goes well.

6. Glue decorative paper on top of the notebook

7. Re-attach the binder clips to hold everything in place until the glue for the cover page dries.

8. Attach the tape over the glued edges to cover all the glue and uneven edges. Think of a composition book and how it's taped.

Source:
9. Decorate however you want! Below are some ideas. Enjoy your very practical new but old notebook.

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