Student Success Skills for Polar Bears

## **Tips to Focus your Attention when Studying**

- 1. Meditate regularly. Meditation trains your brain to stay at attention for longer periods of time. Practice focused attention mediation for 10 minutes a day or try out one of the many apps such as Stop, Breath & Think.
- 2. **Take breaks.** Apply the <u>Pomodoro Technique</u>, which is based on time intervals that promote bursts of intense productivity, followed by brief rest periods.
- 3. Exercise to get the jitters out. Make sure you have gotten your physical energy out before you start studying or exercise during breaks, which will increase your focus.
- 4. Limit distractions. Turn off your phone and close websites or use apps to block distracting website or applications such as Freedom or SelfControl, which often have built in timers to reinforce the pomodoro technique.
- 5. Drink plenty of water and eat healthy food. Prepare drinks and food before you start studying so that you will be less likely to get up and lose focus.
  - Stay hydrated!
  - Drink black tea instead of coffee.
  - Eat power snacks and brain food.
- 6. **Consider your energy level.** Schedule your most challenging study sessions when you anticipate feeling most energized and focused. Do the hardest thing first.
- 7. **Increase your alertness.** Studies show that listening to classical music helps you pay attention. So does chewing gum and taking notes by hand.
- 8. Give yourself permission to zone out. Allow your mind to wander and schedule a convenient time for daydreaming (e.g. while doing dishes).
- 9. Get a good night's sleep. Make sure you have slept at least eight hours. Fatigue makes it really hard to concentrate when studying.

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Academic Coaching