Help! How do I manage my time?

Caroline McCormick

ASTR 8500 Spring 2022

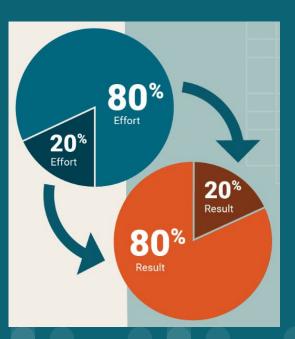


Prioritize important tasks for maximum success

Pareto Analysis (80/20 Rule)



- 1. Recognize what your tasks/goals are
- 2. Give each task a ranking (higher ranking = more important)
- 3. Group similar tasks
- 4. Compute the score for each group
- 5. Work your way down the list starting with highest score



Eisenhower Matrix

Important

DO

Urgent and important tasks that need to be done right away.

Urgent

- A crisis in the office
- Pressing deadlines

Decide

Not Urgent

These tasks are important but not urgent.

- · Going to the gym
- Time with family

Not Important

Delegate

Urgent but not important tasks.

- Scheduling meetings
- Appointments

Delete

Neither urgent nor important.

- Personal phone calls
- Social media

Pickle Jar Theory



- Sand → distracting or unimportant tasks
- Pebbles → moderately important tasks that can be pushed off
- Rocks → most important tasks that are time sensitive



Stop procrastinating; work more efficiently

Pomodoro Technique

• Break up work into smaller intervals



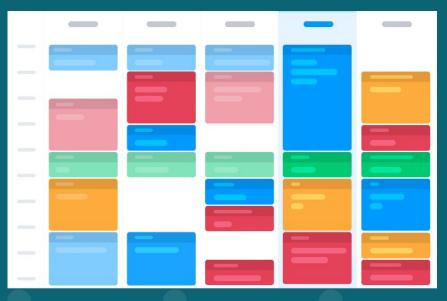
- L. Choose a task to work on
- 2. Set a timer for 25 minutes
- 3. Work on that one task without distractions for 25 minutes
- 4. Take a 5 minute break when timer goes off (no work)
- 5. Repeat
 - a. Every four times through take a 20-30 minute break



Time Blocking Method



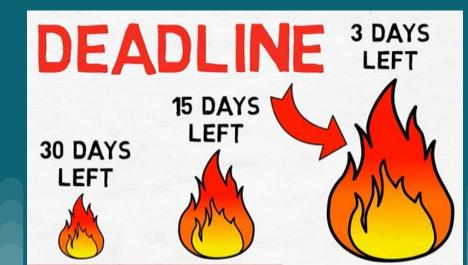
- 1. Split up every hour/half hour of your day into separate blocks
- 2. Identify your tasks for the day
- 3. Estimate the time each task will take
- 4. Fit your tasks into hour/half-hour blocks
- 5. Add buffer/break times between blocks to account for unexpected adjustments



Parkinson's Law

"Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion." - Cyril Northcote Parkinson

• Set harsher deadlines for yourself than what others require



Getting Things Done (GTD) Method

• Think less about tasks, do more tasks

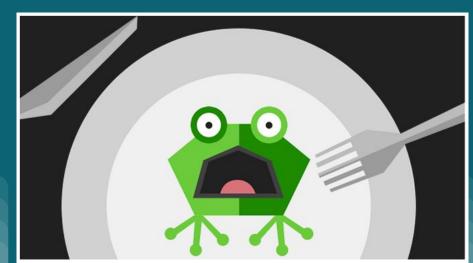


- . Capture every task you think of
- 2. **Clarify**: is it actionable? Can it be done in 2 minutes or less?
- 3. **Organize** your tasks based on importance & determine concrete steps to complete them
- 4. **Review**/update your task list
- 5. Engage by taking action on important tasks

Eat That Frog Technique

• Get the most dreaded task out of the way first to improve motivation

"Eat a live frog the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen



to you the rest of the day"

Rapid Planning Method (RPM)

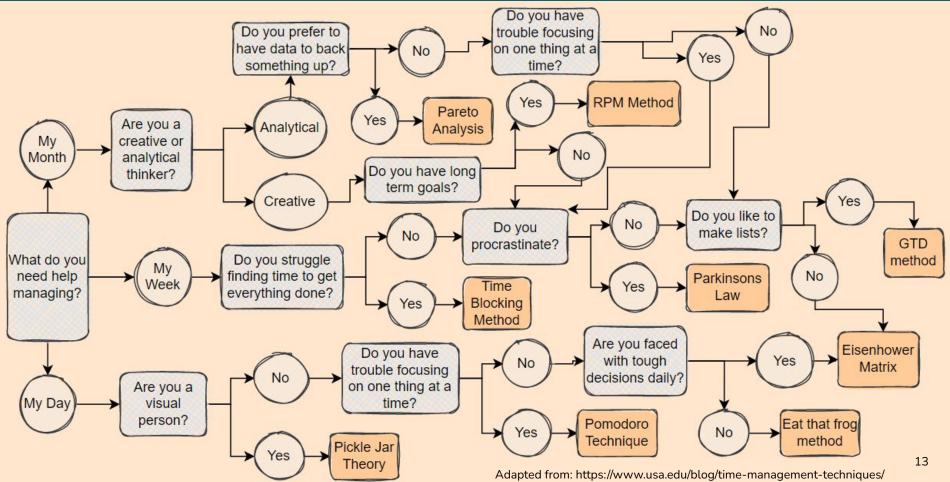
GOAL:

Train your brain to focus on a specific, intended outcome and make it happen



- 1. Identify all tasks for the day, week, month, etc.
- 2. Write down your motivation/purpose for completing each task (be specific)
- 3. Write down what you want to get out of completing each task (be specific)
- 4. Create action items to complete the task and reach your goal

What do you need help managing?



Sources

- <u>https://www.usa.edu/blog/time-management-techniques/</u>
- <u>https://www.toodledo.com/info/frog.php</u>
- <u>https://todoist.com/productivity-methods/getting-things-done</u>
- <u>https://www.zoho.com/blog/cliq/say-goodbye-to-workplace-dis</u>
 <u>tractions-in-2022.html</u>
- <u>https://www.online-tech-tips.com/cool-websites/the-3-best-on</u> <u>line-pomodoro-applications/</u>

##