# WRITING SUPPORT FOR GMC STUDENTS

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# WRITING NOOK

**The Pomodoro Technique** is a scheduling method that employs timed intervals to improve efficiency and overcome procrastination. The technique can be broken down into six essential steps.

- 1. To begin, you want to prepare your workspace/desk/room:
  - Write down everything you want to accomplish during your timed session in list form.
  - Prioritize the most important elements of your work that need your full attention first. You are practicing monotasking here, so avoid trying to do more than one thing at a time.

#### 2. Set a timer:

 A pomodoro interval traditionally refers to 25-minutes of focused work. You can use a kitchen/egg timer or digital apps available online. Flow and Forest are two quality timer apps that help with working in a distraction free timeframe. Forest even plant digital trees with use so it gamifies your focus!

#### 3. Work in intervals:

- Once the timer starts, focus entirely ONE (1) task at a time.
- Minimize distractions: Silence your phone, turn off unnecessary notifications, and inform others not to interrupt you during this period.
- Use a supplementary app like <u>Freedom</u> or <u>Focus</u> to turn off notification during your intervals.

#### 4. Take breaks and breathe:

- When the timer rings, take a short 5 minute break-- move around, stretch, or grab a snack. Your brain requires recovery time between sessions to process information and work efficiently.
- Breaks between intervals minimize the risk of mental fatigue so you can work steadily without losing focus.

## 5. Repeat 4-5 times:

- After your 5 minute break, return and begin or complete another task on your prioritized list.
- Repeat cycles of focused work and short breaks for approximately 4 cycles (around 2 hours). You will be astounded at the progress you make!

#### 6. Long Break:

• After completing a cycle of Pomodoro intervals, take a long 30 minute break. This is a good time to recharge and refresh yourself after a significant use of mental energy.

## Tip:

• Don't be scared to adjust the interval or break times based on your needs, just be consistent!

