Value-Building Experiences by SimpleTruths.com

A Guide for Increasing Productivity:

Attention Management by Maura Nevel Thomas

Includes printable worksheet for meeting participants ©2019 Simple Truths, LLC



Create success and gain productivity every day. How?

<u>Prior to your meeting</u>, provide a copy of *Attention Management* to each meeting participant and request the participants read the book and come prepared for discussion. The book will also serve as a learning tool and a future resource to reinforce training ideas.

Ask these thought-provoking questions prior to discussing the book:

- 1. What competes for your attention at work? At home?
- Do you prioritize your time? If so, how? If not, why not?

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Book Discussion Questions

1. The New Path to Productivity and Living a Life of Choice

- What technology tools distract you the most at work? At home?
- What time management strategies do you employ at work and at home? Do they help you to be more productive? If so, how? If not, why not?
- How is your attention divided at home? At work?

2. What is Attention Management – and Why is It Different?

- Do you decide where your attention goes, or do outside demands decide for you? How do you know?
- How often do you find yourself so engrossed in work or another activity that you lose track of yourself and time? How do you get into this state of "flow"?
- How often do you give something your full attention for more than a few minutes? How are you able to do this?
- How often do you daydream? When do you do this?
- How often are you focused and present in the moment? When do you do this?



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3. Attention Management Problems Undermine Your Success

- How often are you distracted by other people's problems? By technology? By your physical environment?
- How often do you get a full night's sleep? How does this affect your productivity?
- How often do you take breaks throughout the day? How does this affect your productivity?
- How often do you handle work after hours and/or on vacation? How does this affect your productivity?
- Think of a recent day that you ended with a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment. What happened during that day to make you feel that way?

4. Starting Your Journey with Attention Management

- Have you ever tried turning your phone off for a day? If yes, what happened? If no, would you consider doing this?
- Have you ever tried setting up a sign or email message letting people know not to disturb you for a certain period of time? If yes, what happened? If no, would you consider doing this?
- Think about turning your phone off for a day or setting up a "do not disturb" sign or email. What challenges would you have implementing these changes? What could you do to overcome these challenges?



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5. How to Master Attention Management

- Brainstorm ways you can inject calm and periods of deep focus into your day.
- Brainstorm ways you can free up mental space and prevent mental distractions from getting in your way.
- Brainstorm ways you can add deep learning (taking a deep dive into something rather than just skimming) into your life.

6. Set Yourself Up for Success with Attention Management

- · Which of your daily behaviors have become habits?
- Which of these habits actually increase your productivity? Which ones decrease it?
- What can you do to remove those habits that decrease your productivity?

7. Attention Management is the Key to a Life of Choice

 Looking back at your answers above, choose three actions you can take within the next two weeks to help you live a life of choice rather than one of distraction.

Attention management is the most essential skill you need to live a life of choice rather than a life of reaction and distraction.

Control your attention, control your life!

Contact us to learn more or tell us about how this Discussion Guide sparked impact for you and your team!

Corporate Account Manager – Lance Vanderhagen | Phone: 630-961-3900 x 247 | Toll-free 800-900-3427 x 247 | Email: lance.vanderhagen@sourcebooks.com

