

Creative Accommodations to Support Students with Neurodiversity, Mental Health Challenges and Disabilities

Betsy Furler





Introduction

Betsy Furler – CEO and Founder of For All Abilities

Passionate about people working to their strengths

Background – Speech Pathologist, Workplace and Media Disability

Consultant

We all work better when we can use our strengths, feel valued and are efficient and productive.



Introduction

Studying at the university level can be overwhelming for a young person with mental health challenges, neurodiversity or disabilities. Accommodations, or supports, can level the playing field. This session will introduce you to some great ideas for accommodations and methods to figure out what accommodations are needed for each student.

We all work better when we can use our strengths, feel valued and are efficient and productive.



Data from the SNaPU Pilot

- 77% of students report a condition that could qualify for accommodations.
- 84% of students are easily distracted 84% by conversations and 81% by other apps/software.
- 86% prefer to communicate with professors in person and 73% prefer to communicate via email.
- 39% report a significant life change in the last 12 months.



The Importance of Strengths, Needs and Preferences

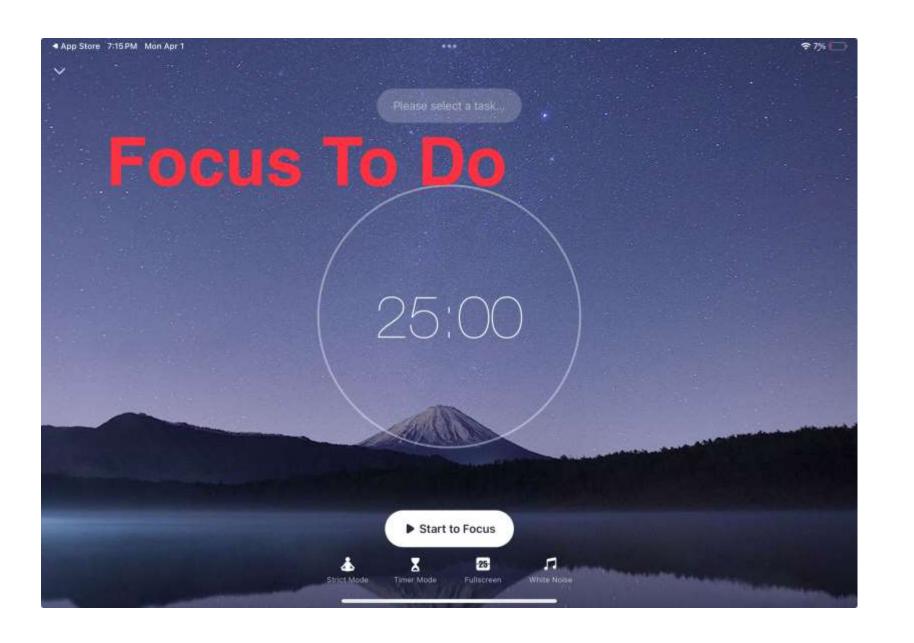
- How did you choose your profession?
- Do you think about what you like to do?
- Do you think about how you like to work?
- What supports or accommodations do you need at work?

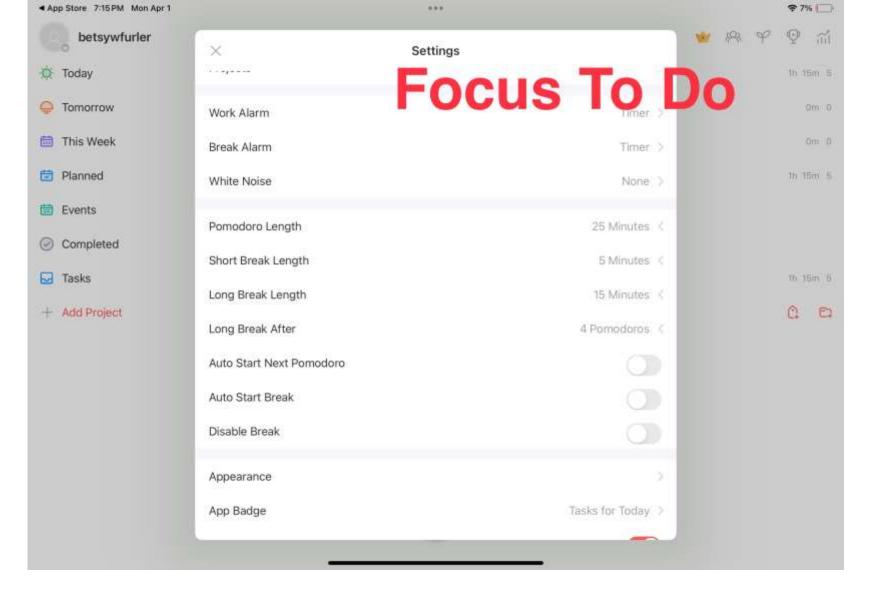
100% of people work, think and learn differently!

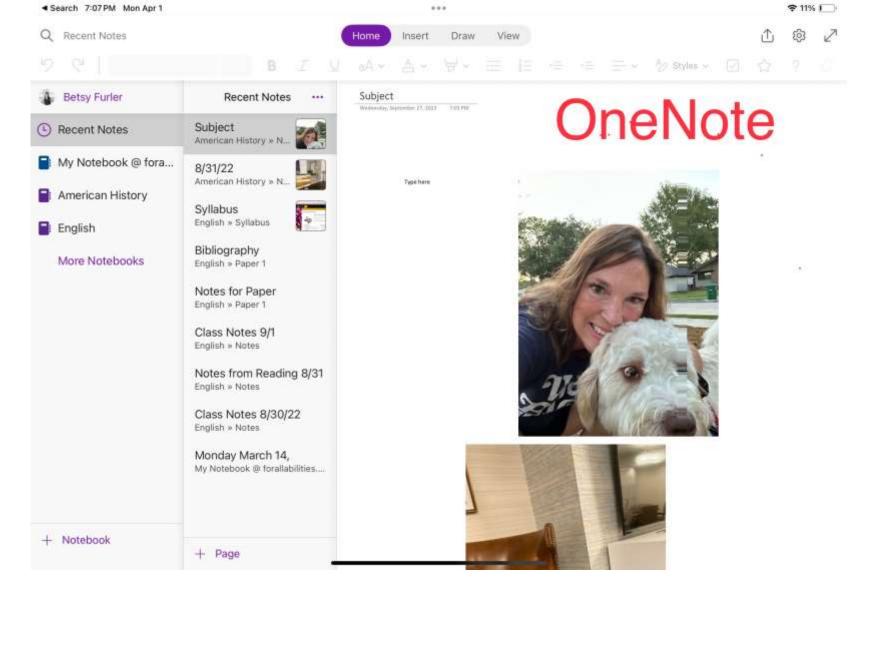


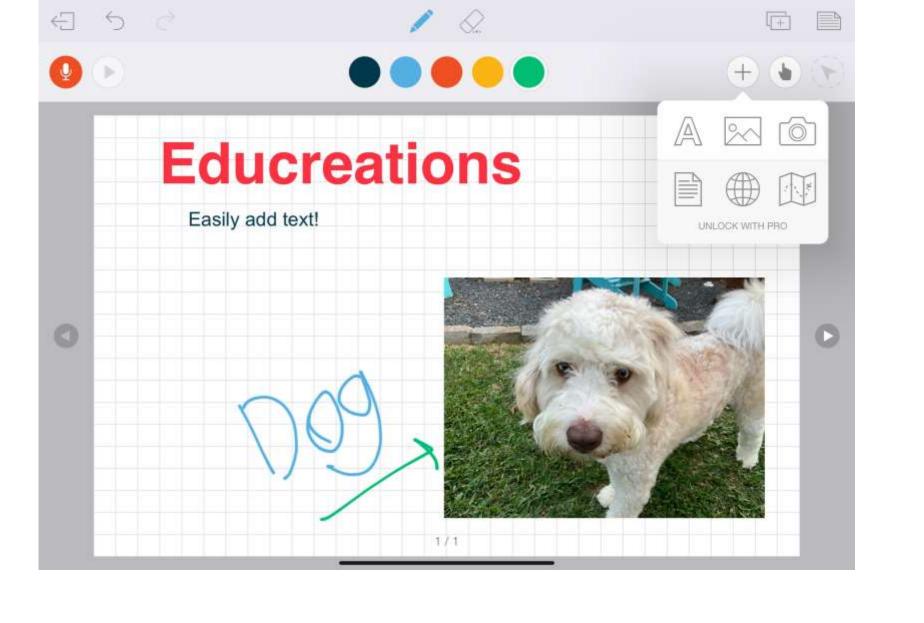
Match with Great Accommodations

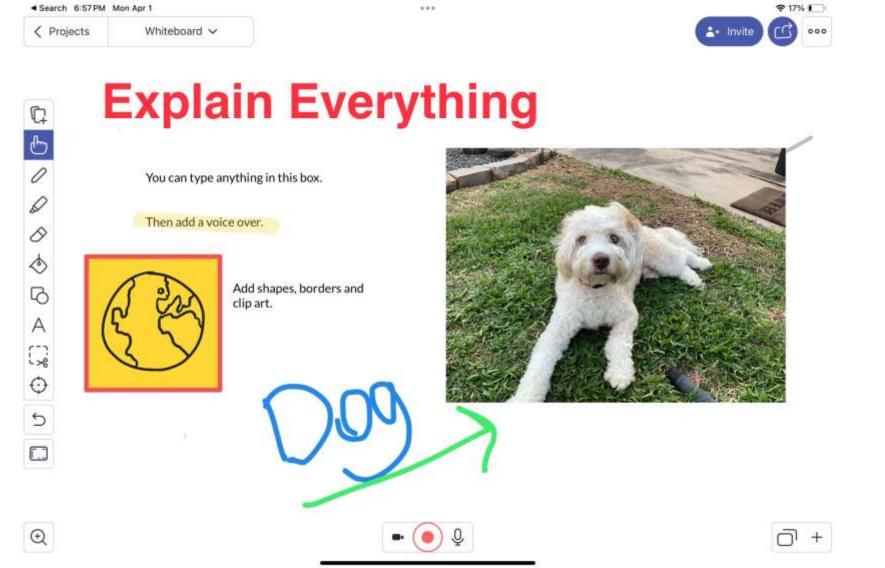
- Think outside the box
- Time Timer
- Planned breaks Pomodoro Technique Focus To Do App
- OneNote
- Interactive whiteboard apps like Educreations or Explain Everything
- Notes and Reminders
- Inspiration Maps
- Calendars

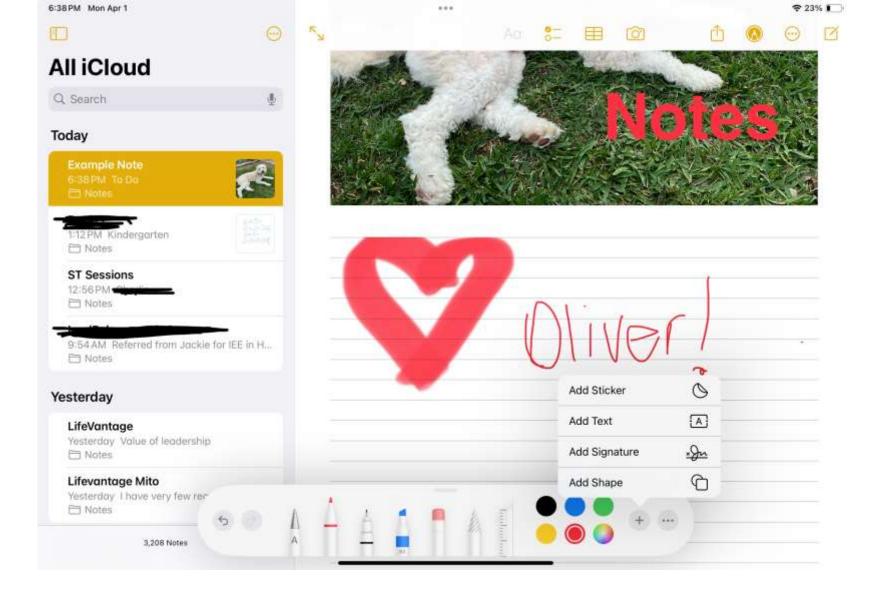


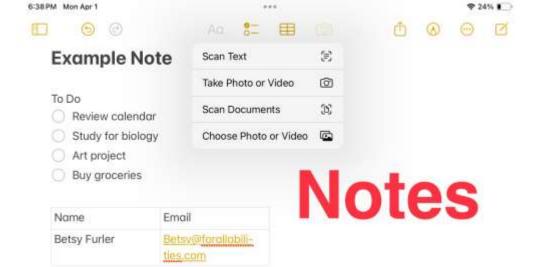


















Voice Memos

Tap the Record button to start a Voice Memo.



◆ Search 6:20 PM Mon Apr 1

Hawaii Eliya









₹ 32% ■





Barack Obama was born in Hawaii

Date: August 4, 1961

Inspiration Maps

- He is the only president born outside the continental United States.
- Other facts:
 - Honolulu is the capital of Hawaii
 - Hawaii is the 50th. It became a state on August 21, 1959.
 - The nickname is the Aloha State.
- Hawaii is 2390 miles from California and 3850 miles from Japan.
 - 1. It's the most isolated population center on Earth.
 - Hawaii is the only state with a tropical rainforest,
 - F. Hawaii does not observe daylight savings time.
 - The two official languages are English and Hawaiian.
 - People living in Hawaii longer lives than people in any other state.
- Made up of 8 islands
 - Ni hau

Kaua'i

O'ahu

Moloka'i

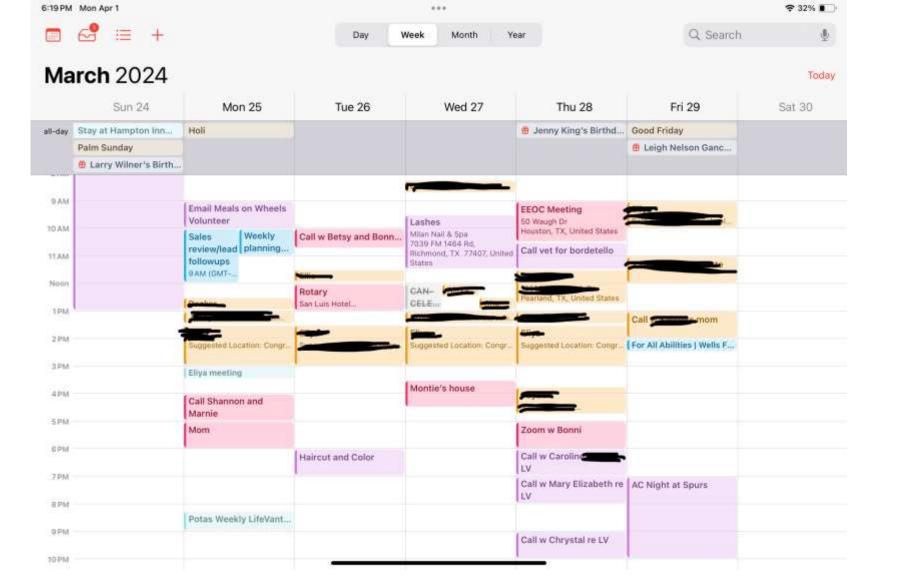
Lana'i

Maui



A. Attention Getter:
 B. Relevant Background Information:

A. Point #1 in support of thesis:





Accommodations for Tim - ASD

- Permission to turn off his camera on Zoom when anxious
- Allow solo work if possible
- Use Microsoft OneNote to take notes, store papers and use calendar reminders
- Allow use of earbuds when needed
- Schedule periodic check ins for large projects
- Encourage him to meet with his professors on a regular basis to review work and explain any special circumstances



Accommodations for Kim – OCD and Anxiety

- Notes provided by the professor
- Strategic use of calendars and reminders
- Use of OneNote to organize paperwork and notes
- Use of Trello for organizing projects
- A designated quiet place that she can decompress in if needed
- The use of a timer for studying to stay on task



A Few Other Helpful Accommodations

- Lighting changes
- Set structured schedule for the entire day Strategic use of music while working
- IBreathe app
- First Then Visual Schedule or Visual Schedule Planner
- Communication systems
- Speech to Text apps
- Music
- Noise cancelling earbuds



Thanks!
Please keep in touch!
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