### Is Our Effort Effective?

# I AM AN AWESOME ATTORNEY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20





### A Distracted Brain is an Anxious Brain



- Multitasking is defined as doing more than one cognitive\* task at a time
- Multitasking = switchtasking
- Increases the amount of time it takes us to complete a task
  - usually by 2x
- Quality decreases; causes mistakes
- Stress increases
- Drain on brain's resources and energy: water, glucose, fat, oxygen
- Switchtasking → continuous partial attention
  - limits ability to focus
  - limits cognitive capacity
  - lowers intellectual capacity (IQ)
  - Compromises productivity
- Work demands have increased, while our cognitive capacity for meeting those demands has been compromised



## Tool #1: Journey Where is Your Awareness?

We are able to place our attention wherever we want or need it to be

This is our superpower







# Tool #2 Attention Training for a Focused State

Key to learning to pay attention is to notice when you're distracted

- Our brains self-interrupt. Notice it to mitigate it HOW?
- Identify a single task
- Set a timer.
- Remove devices from sight. Turn off notifications.
- Stay on task.
- When distracted, notice and bring your attention back to the task. This process improves attention and focus.
- If you leave your task to respond to an interruption, do so
  intentionally, and turn your entire focus to that item
- Schedule interruptions and create boundaries
- Mindfulness is a form of attention training.
  - Definition: To pay attention, on purpose, to the present moment, without judgment, with curiosity



# How do we sustain energy and focused attention?

Brain States and Brain Breaks

## Tool #3: Brain Reboot Formula Focus → Time Out → Recover

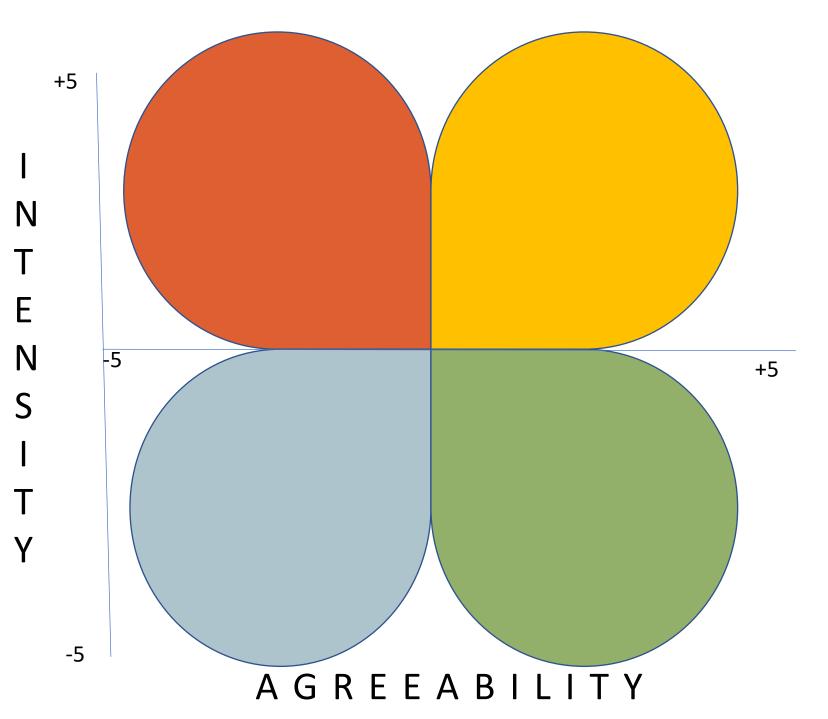
This formula optimizes performance, productivity, and energy

- Our brains are designed to focus for up to 75-90 minutes, and alternate between focused and diffuse (nondirected thought) states
- To sustain energy, our brains need a **cognitive time-out** from the focused state to activate the areas of our brains that process and integrate information, problem solve, learn and remember, while allowing the PFC to recover
- Burnout-free high performance: Focus followed by rest and recovery prevents cognitive fatigue and burnout, fosters problem-solving and breakthrough ideas
- Use this formula to sustain energy through back-to-back classes and studying

NOTE: Web surfing, social media, watching TV are **NOT** cognitive time-outs

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, PhD, author of Flow





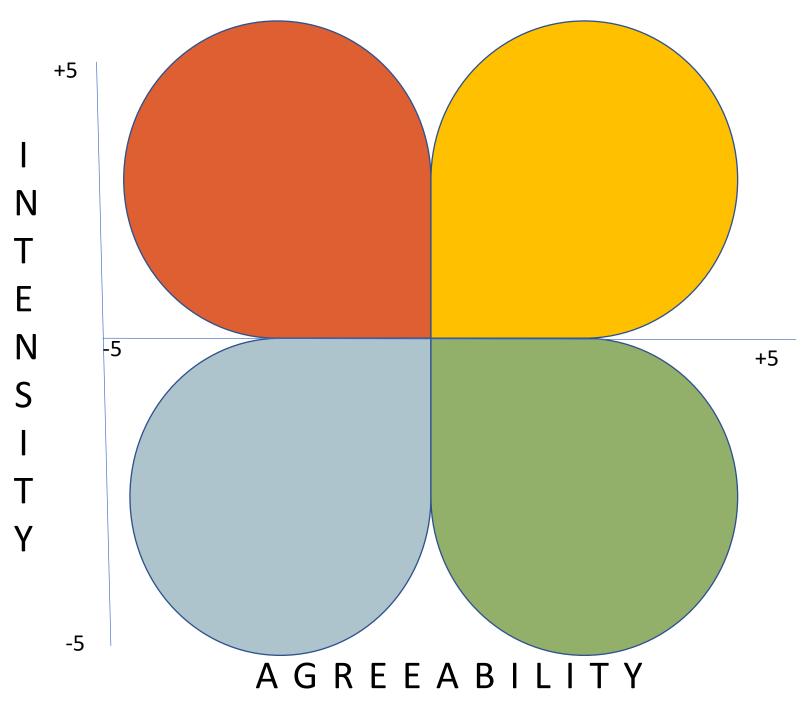
### TOOL #4: MOOD & MINDSET REAPPRAISAL

Red Petal: high intensity, low agreeability emotions

Blue Petal: low intensity, low agreeability emotions

Green Petal: low intensity, high agreeability emotions

Yellow Petal: high intensity, high agreeability emotions



#### MINDSET SHIFT

What is the Event / Situation?

What was your un-useful thought?

What is your emotion?

Rate the experience (-5 to +5)

#### Gathering evidence

Evidence that supports the thought Evidence that reverse/challenges the thought

### Realistic thinking / Cognitive Reappraisal

What is your alternative thought?

What is your emotion now?

What is your mood rating (-5 to +5)

Shifting mood & mindset can also shift energy



# The Cornerstone of Emotional Intelligence is Awareness

#### Self Awareness

**Emotional Self Awareness** 

Accurate Self Assessment

### Self Management

**Behavioral Self Control** 

Integrity

**Stress Management** 

Resilience

**Achievement Drive** 

#### Other Awareness

**Empathy** 

Situational Awareness

Service Orientation

### Relationship Management

Interpersonal Communication

Listening

Collaboration

**Building Trust** 

**Empathy** 

**Conflict Resolution** 

