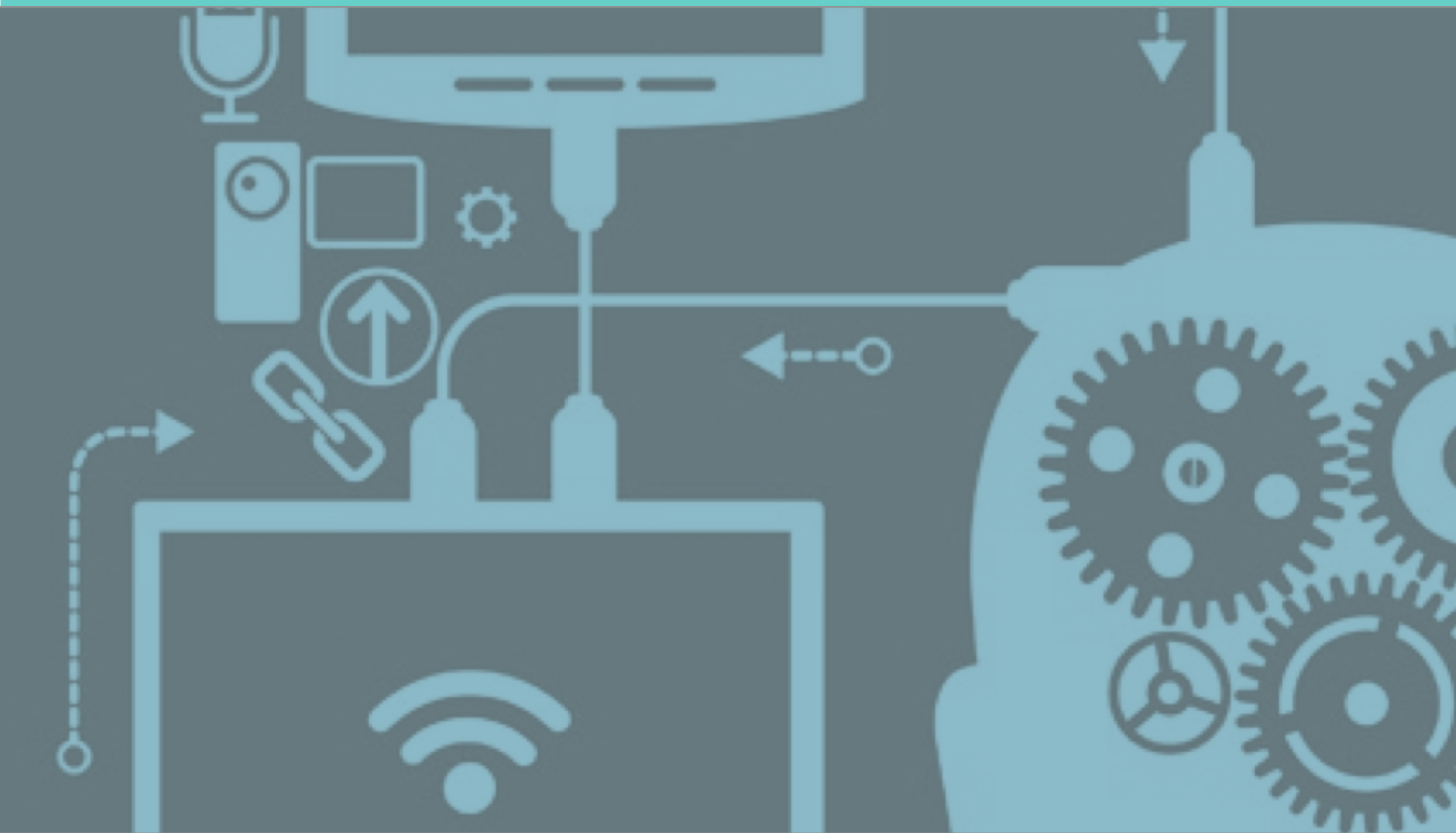


CN6000

Final Year Project 2025/26

Topic 2

The Project Proposal and Literature Review



Lecture Content

- Quick review:
 - The project proposal
 - Research/Project Aim
 - Research/Project Objectives
 - Proposal approval process
- Supervisors
- Project Planning
- Time Management



Project Proposal

- This should describe the aim of your project (the *what*) and the rationale (the *why*).
- Please use the template available via Moodle
- Look at the examples in the study guide as an indicator of the level of detail required
- **Deadline on Moodle:**
 - **29th Oct 2025** (Final Proposal)



Identifying a Good Topic:

- Have you selected your topic already?
- If not, did you not check the “Supervisor’s expertise’ page to get ideas?
- Use the breakout study space this evening to meet each other and brainstorm ideas.
- Email them to your choice of supervisor and ask them to select what they prefer.

Brief explanation of Theoretical Research

- **Stage 2: Research Methodology**
 - You have a choice:
 - Quantitative
 - Qualitative
 - Mix of both



Brief explanation of Theoretical Research

- **Stage 2:** Research Methodology
 - **Quantitative:** Usually involves using a survey to gather opinions, views, or data.
 - **Example:** See if people like a new software idea? What a group of employee think of a new data dashboard? Analysis of data use of a particular app?
 - Usually, we expect it to collect data from 50 to 100 respondent / Published datasets.



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Brief explanation of Theoretical Research

- **Stage 2: Research Methodology**
 - **Qualitative:** This usually involves interviews or focus groups with a selected few people who are experts or relevant to your study.
 - **Example:** Interview sample managers of the software to understand their needs. Arrange a focus group of users to understand their dashboard needs. Study feedback reported on given apps of similar topics.
 - Usually, we expect it to collect data from 5 to 10 respondents.

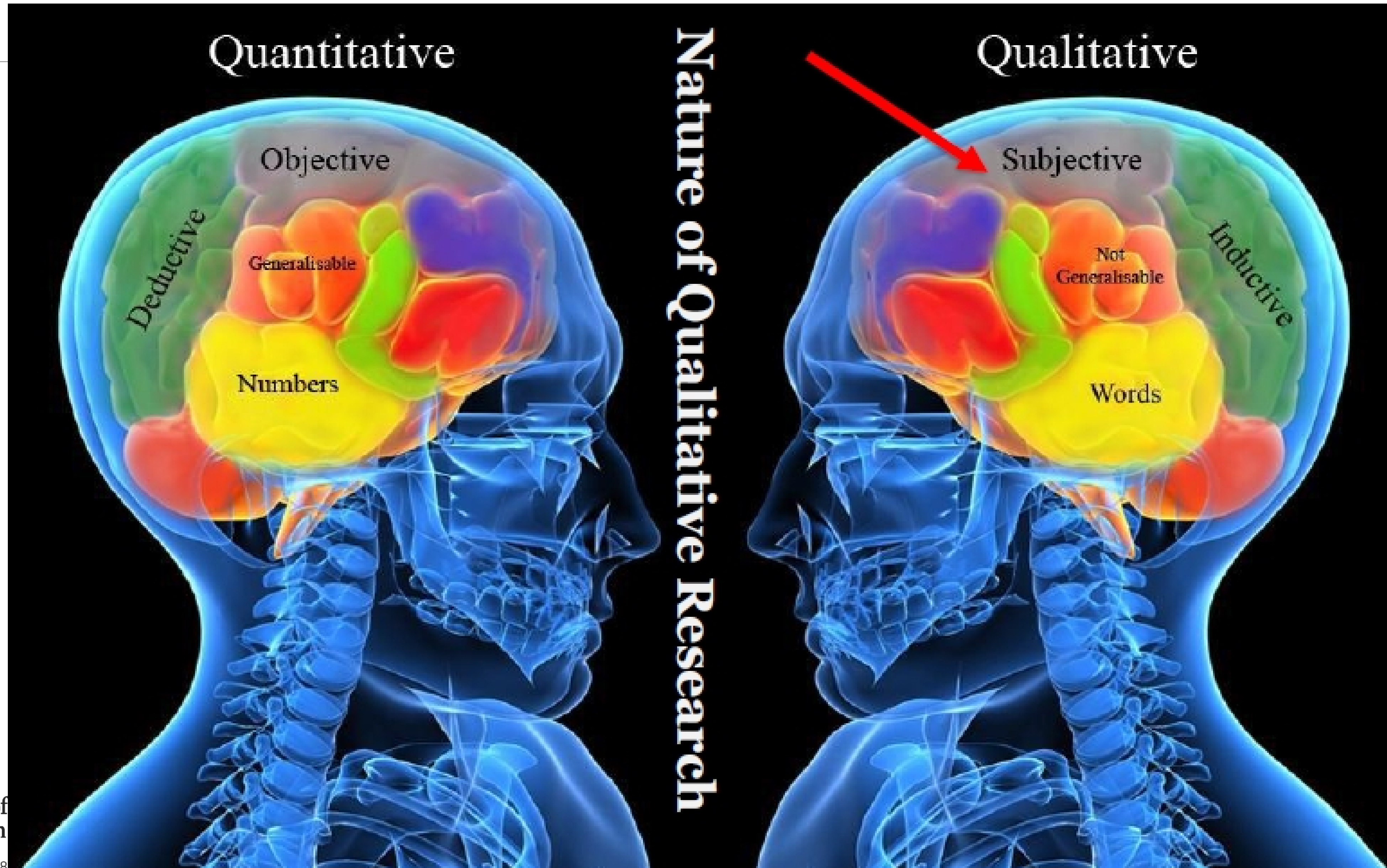


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Qualitative vs. Quantitative



Very Important

- How to rewrite aim and objectives for your research project!

Aim and Objectives:

- **Aim** is usually one single sentence that summarises the purpose of the project. What are you hoping to achieve? Let us see some examples:
 - Design and develop software that better manages stocks at an SME using mobile scanners.
 - Create an interactive dashboard to manage stock market predictions using a live data stream.
 - Implement a local health app system for borough of Newham.
- **Notice:** Aim is about ‘What’ you want to do and not ‘How’.

Aim and Objectives:

- **Objectives** has to be multiple lines in bullet points. Minimum of four but as much as eight points. Have to outline how you will do the project.
 - **Strongly recommended to have four elements:**
 1. Theoretical Research
 2. Field Research: Qualitative verse quantitative
 3. Practical: application and testing
 4. Reflection: Going forward

Aim and Objectives:

- **Aim:** Design and develop a software that better manages stocks at an SME using mobile scanners.

Aim and Objectives:

- **Aim:** Design and develop a software that better manages stocks at an SME using mobile scanners.
 - **Objectives:**
 - By the end of this project, I will be able:
 - To research different software related to stock management.
 - To research the literature on the design relating to stock management using mobile apps.
 - To conduct a survey of SME business on use of mobile app for stock management.
 - To use quantitative analysis on the survey findings.
 - To design and implement a demo stock management database linked to app frontend.
 - To test app for functionality and design.
 - To reflect on the outcomes, challenges, and suggest future research in this field.
1. Theoretical Research
 2. Field Research: Qualitative verse quantitative
 3. Practical: application and testing
 4. Reflection: Going forward

Aim and Objectives:

- **Aim:** Create an interactive dashboard to managing stock market predictions using live data stream.

Aim and Objectives:

- **Aim:** Create an interactive dashboard to manage stock market predictions using a live data stream.

- **Objectives:**

- By the end of this project, I will be able:

- To research different stock market prediction formulas in the literature.
 - To research approaches and risks to live data stream connectivity.
 - To design and implement a demo stock market dashboard system.
 - To test system for functionality and report on accuracy.
 - To conduct interview with stock market investors on the design and functionality of the software.
 - To use qualitative data analysis tools and identify themes for improvements.
 - To reflect on the outcomes, challenges, and suggest further development of the software.

1. Theoretical Research
2. Field Research: Qualitative verse quantitative
3. Practical: application and testing
4. Reflection: Going forward

Aim and Objectives:

- **Aim:** Implement a local health app system for borough of Newham.

Aim and Objectives:

- **Aim:** Implement a local health app system for the borough of Newham.
- **Objectives:**
 - By the end of this project, I will be able:
 - To research current literature of use of health apps and their impact.
 - To conduct research of current health facilities and activities in Newham.
 - To use qualitative data tools to identify themes and requirements using focus groups.
 - To design and implement a demo health app for Newham.
 - To test the app for functionality and report on accuracy.
 - To reflect on the outcomes, challenges, and suggest further development of the app.

1. Theoretical Research
2. Field Research: Qualitative verse quantitative
3. Practical: application and testing
4. Reflection: Going forward

Supervisors

Role of your Supervisor



- Supervisors are responsible for providing students with help and guidance throughout their project assessment.
- The responsibilities of the supervisor include:
 1. To give guidance about the nature of the **project enquiry** and the **standard of work** to be expected.
 2. To advise students about the **planning of the project** and to discuss a timetable.
 3. To **encourage students** to acquire and maintain familiarity with relevant developments in their subject.
 4. To give advice about the quality of the work and **areas to improve**.

Supervisors

Role of your Supervisor



- The responsibilities of the supervisor include:
 5. To **maintain contact through project meetings**. The frequency and nature of these sessions will vary depending on the characteristics of the topic and the requirements of the discipline.
 6. To **be accessible to the student** at other appropriate and reasonable times when advice may be needed.
 7. To give advice on the preparation of a dissertation and **advise the student if the standard** of English is inadequate.
 9. To **read a draft section(s)** of the student's dissertation once only. Further readings are at the discretion of the dissertation supervisor/tutor.

Supervisors

Role of your Supervisor



- The responsibilities of the supervisor do **NOT** include:
 1. To teach you how to do the project.
 2. To correct your writing or your language.
 3. To chase you or beg you to come to a meeting.
 4. To promise you or tell you what grade you will get or are likely to get.

Break 1:

- Have you selected your topic?
- Have you selected your supervisor yet?
- Any questions about your role with your supervisor?
- Do you know when the deadline to select your supervisor?

Project Planning

- You need to start early in planning your project.
- By now, you should have a clear idea of your project's overall purpose (ie your aim) and the means by which you will achieve your overall purpose (ie your objectives)

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- **Without your project objectives finalised, you cannot start your project planning!!**

Project Planning

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- **Your objectives will help you plan your project!**
- **Without your project objectives finalised, you cannot start your project planning!!**
- Project objectives assist you by
 - identifying the work you need to perform,
 - clarifying the order in which you should tackle the tasks.
 - Set the milestones of your project.

On Project Planning (cont.)

Project planning can be modeled by a series of six tools:

1. Work breakdown,
2. Time estimates,
3. Milestone identification,
4. Activity sequencing,
5. Scheduling,
6. Re-planning.

You don't need to use all of them, but you should try to at least use three of them.

Work Breakdown: Break this bundle in half!

The principle of WB is that taking a big problem on in one go is difficult.



Work Breakdown: Separate the bundle into individual straws

Divide and conquer!





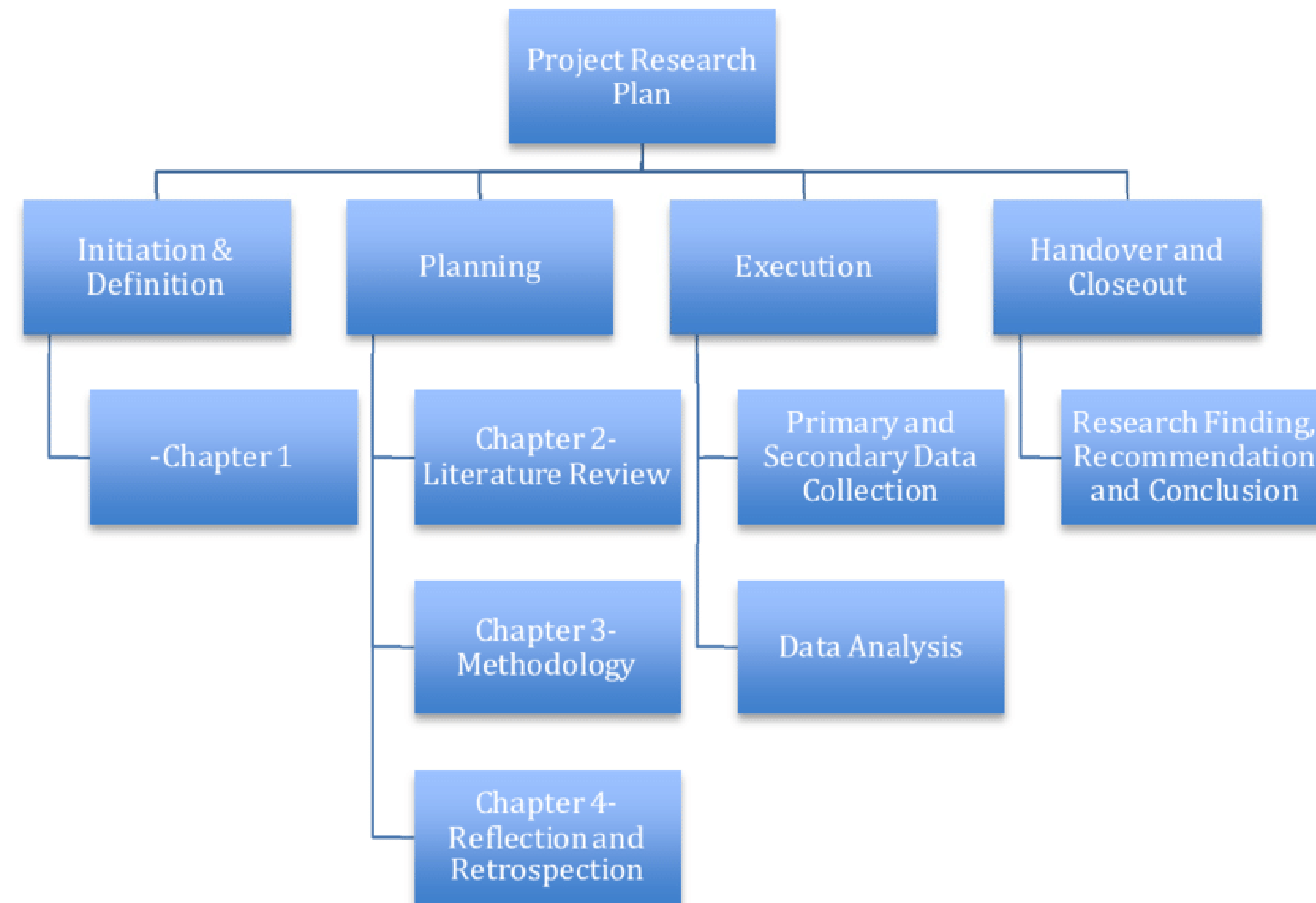
Work Breakdown

- **Breaking your work down into smaller and more achievable tasks.** Start with the aim and then identify the objectives (approx. 6)
- To achieve these objectives, you need to break them into lower levels until you reach manageable tasks.
- After this first round, you may find that some tasks can be broken down further. However, at some point, you need to stop decomposing.
 - For example, it is not generally useful to identify tasks which will take you a few weeks but more those that would take a **day or two to complete.**
- As you decompose your project, you should ensure that tasks at all levels are discrete and that a task in one part of your plan is not repeated elsewhere.
 - If this happens, you may be duplicating effort unnecessarily.



Work Breakdown (cont.)

- For your own records, you may want to represent the overall project breakdown as a layered diagram. The picture below represents an artificial neural network (ANN) project.



Time Estimates

- Since your project is broken into a number of tasks it is much easier to estimate how long it will take to complete.
- In order to do so, proceed upwards; i.e. from the bottom (lowest tasks), estimating a duration for each of the lowest level tasks.

Activity	Estimated Duration
Literature search	8 weeks
Literature review	4 weeks
Investigate and evaluate ANNs	4 weeks
Design ANN	4 weeks
Develop and test ANN	2 weeks
Get stock market data	1 week
Train ANN	1 week
Use stock market models	2 weeks
Review statistical tests	2 weeks
Analyse and evaluate	4 weeks
Complete report	8 weeks
Total Effort	40 weeks (approximately 10 months)



Time Estimates (cont.)

- Once you have created the table, you may find that you have aimed to do too much in the time available and need to reduce what you intend to achieve.
- Avoid tight margins. Over the course of six months, it is likely that some unexpected events will occur (whether they are related to your project or not).
- If your margins are too tight and do not allow any flexibility, then you might not be able to complete your project on time.

Identify Milestones:

- Significant steps towards the completion of the project,
- Evaluate the current progress.

These enable you to assess, at the earliest opportunity, how you are progressing against your planned schedule and to take timely action.

To identify milestones, you should focus on your project's work breakdown structure.

A common approach is to use some (if not all) of your **project's objectives** as milestones since they are the key components for your project to be successful.

Identify Milestones (cont.)

The number of milestones that you will identify for your project will vary depending on the project's size and complexity.

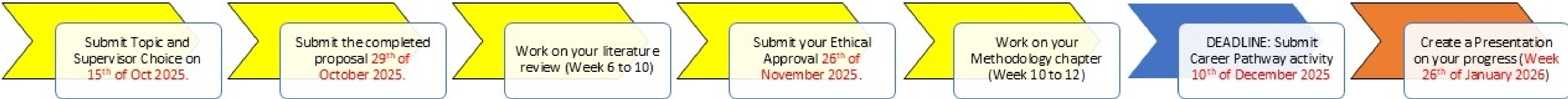
Example:

- final proposal,
- Initial literature review,
- practical design,
- implementation,
- testing,
- critical analysis.
- Writing the document

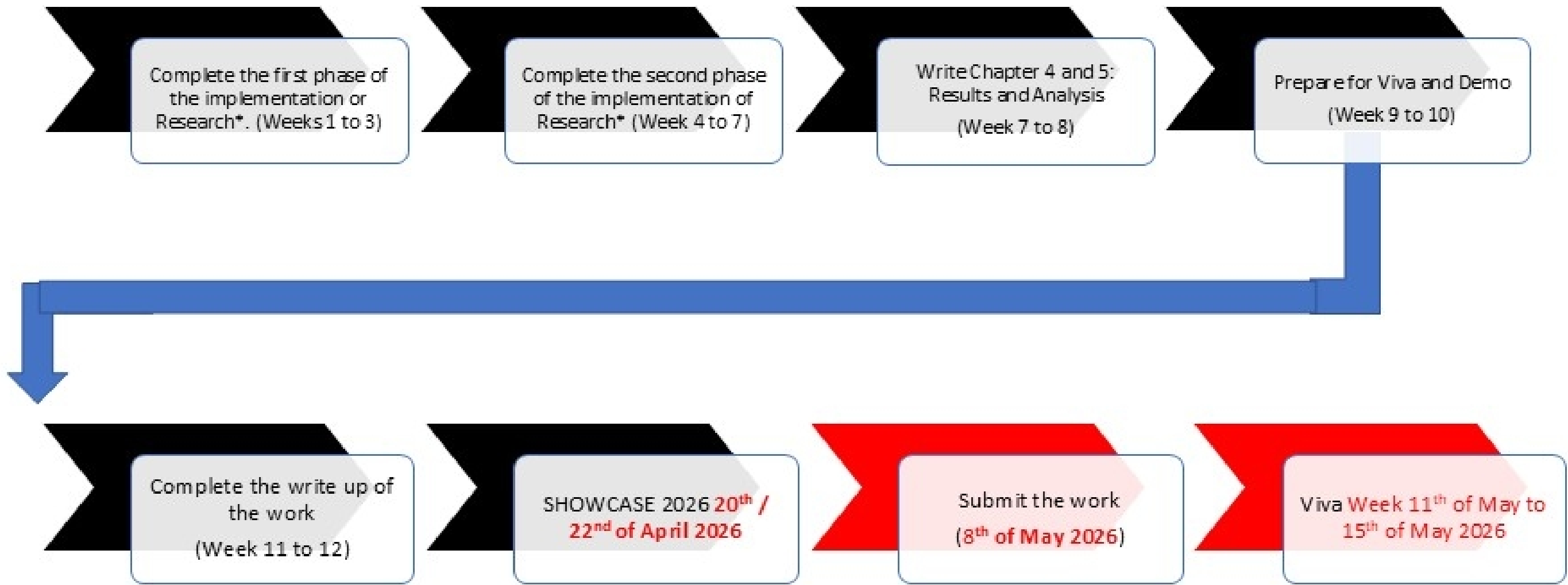
One milestone you must always identify is the project's completion.

Identify Milestones (cont.)

Term A:



Term B:



Scheduling

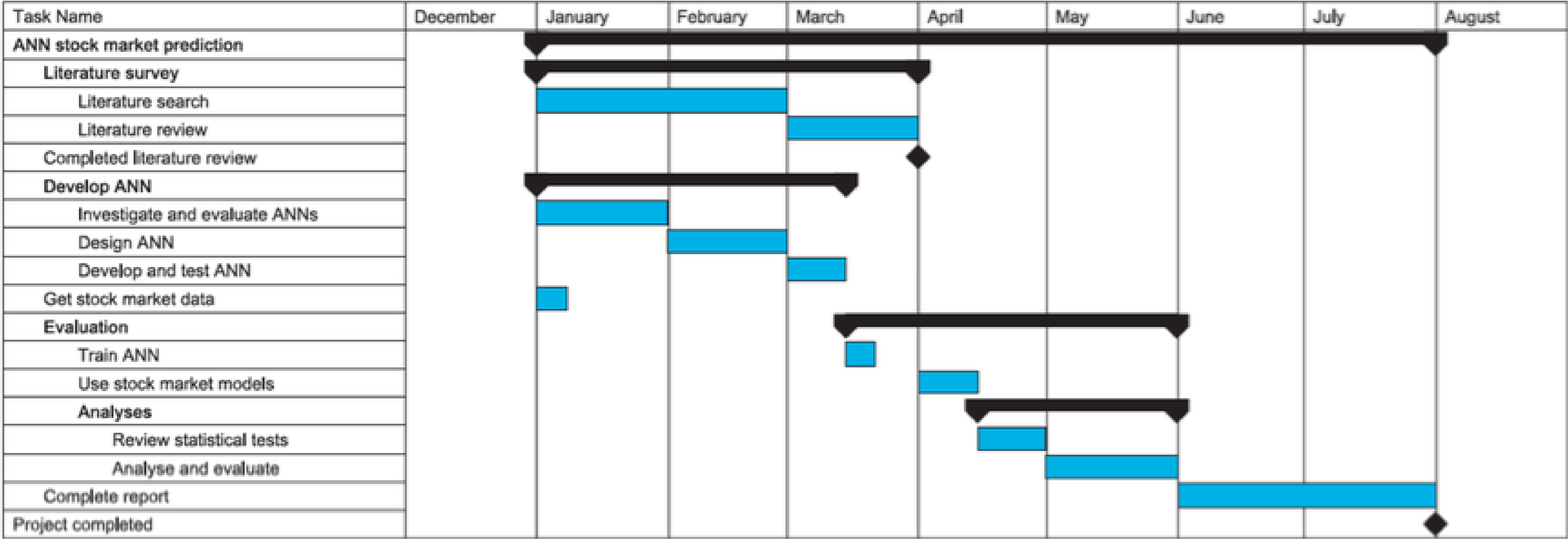
Gantt charts are similar to activity networks in that they attempt to represent a project in diagrammatical form.

However, unlike activity networks, they do not show the relationships between tasks, but they do explicitly show the durations of activities and identify instances when tasks are performed simultaneously.

- represent a project's activities as rectangles or nodes, and milestones by diamonds (like activity networks),
- the size (length) of an activity's node represents the duration of that activity.

Scheduling (cont.)

- A Gantt Chart created using Microsoft Project



Scheduling (cont.)

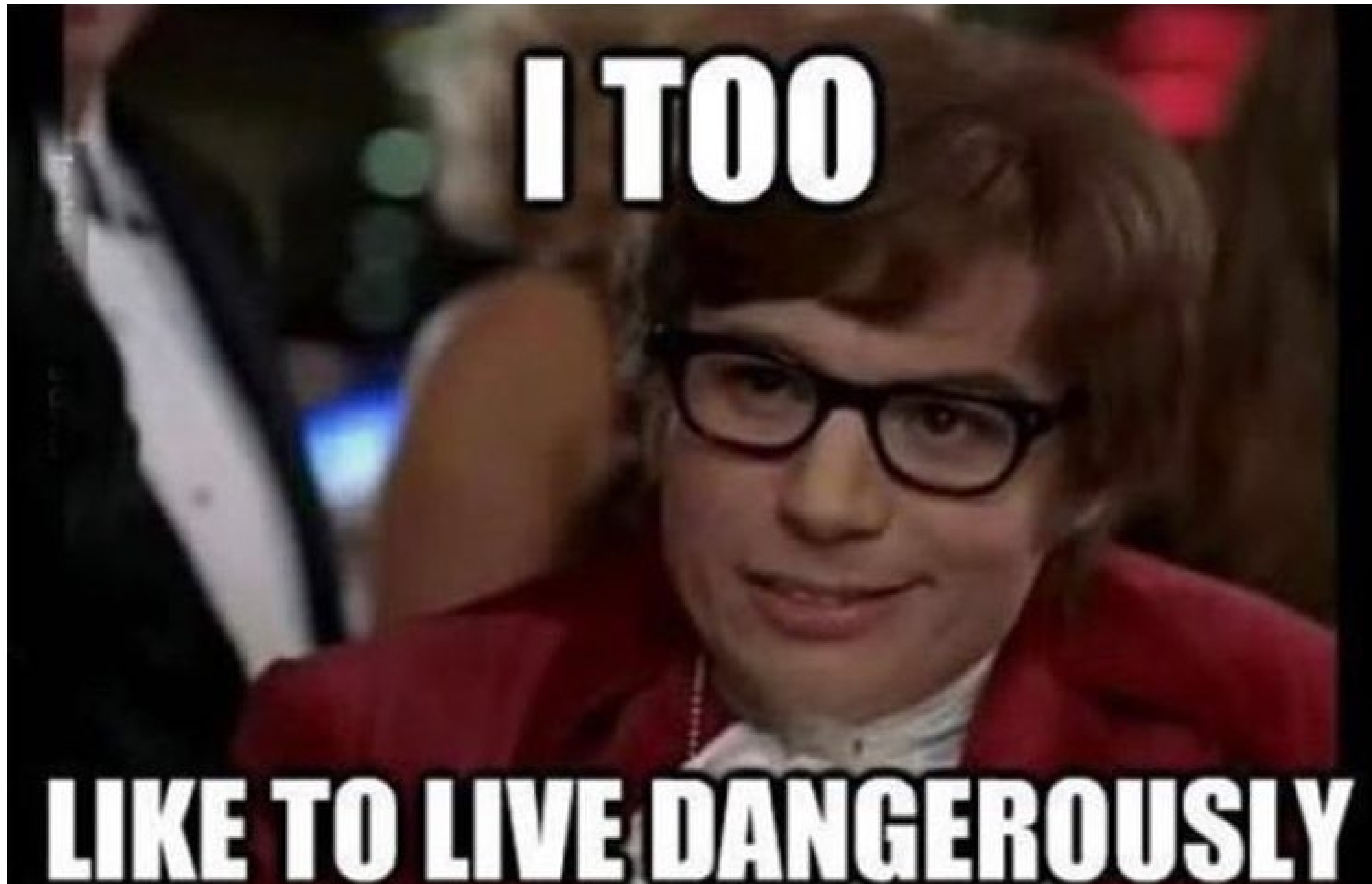
- To draw your Gantt chart, you will need a project planning tool
- You are free to choose your own tool provided that it creates plans that can be shared with your supervisor via a browser.
- We recommend the use of Trello (www.trello.com)
 - It's web-based
 - There's a mobile app
 - It's free
 - It supports collaborative working
 - Watch the video on Moodle which shows you how to integrate the TeamGantt powerup into Trello

Break 2:

- Which of these tools are you going to use to plan your project?
- All plans are just written on paper. What is key to the success of a plan?

Time Management: Is this you?

Time Management: Is this you?



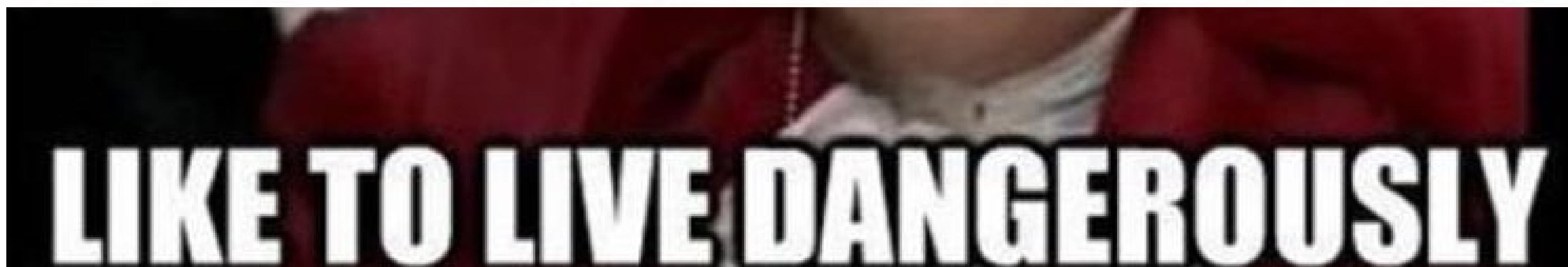
Time Management: Is this you?



Assignment due
at 12:00 PM?



11:59 AM



Time Management: Is this you?



Assignment due
at 12:00 PM?



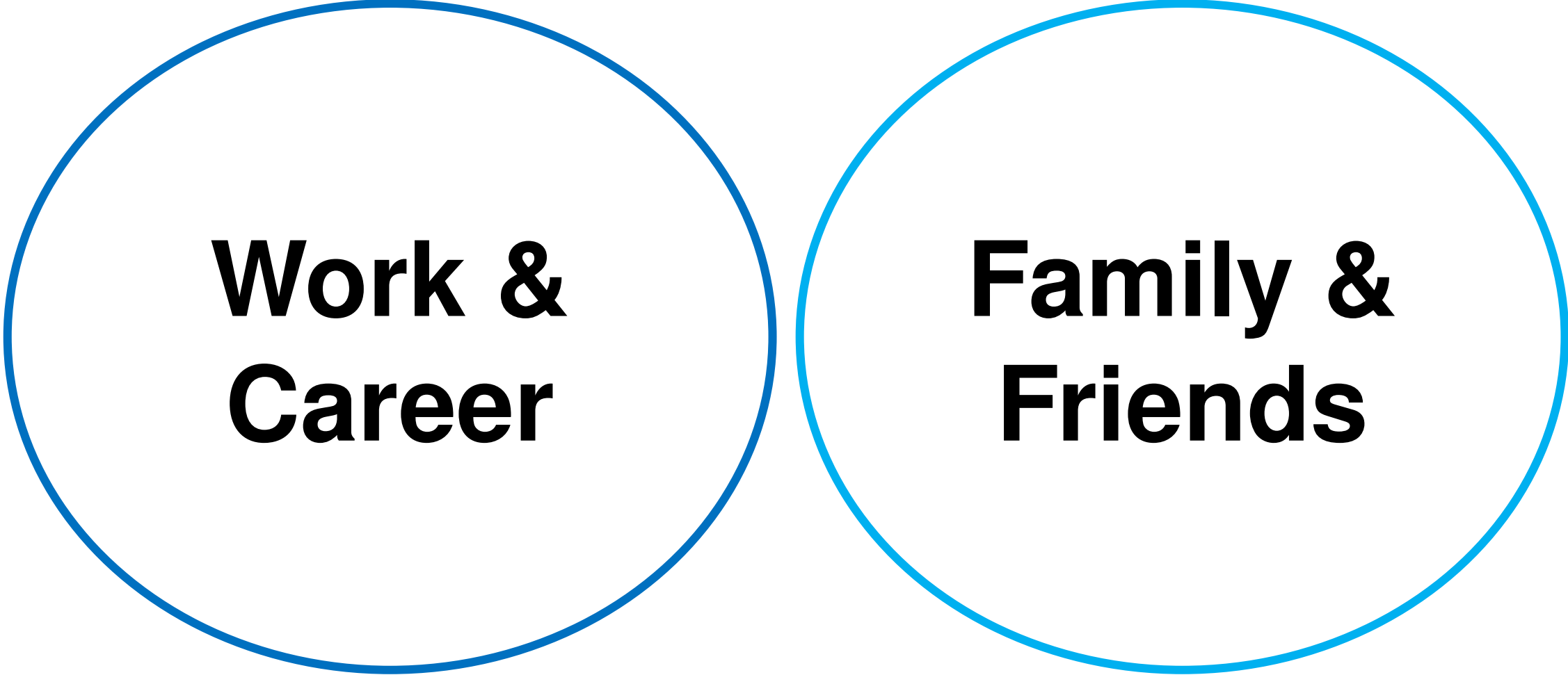
11:59 AM

Time Management:



**Work &
Career**

Time Management:



**Work &
Career**

**Family &
Friends**

Time Management:

**Work &
Career**

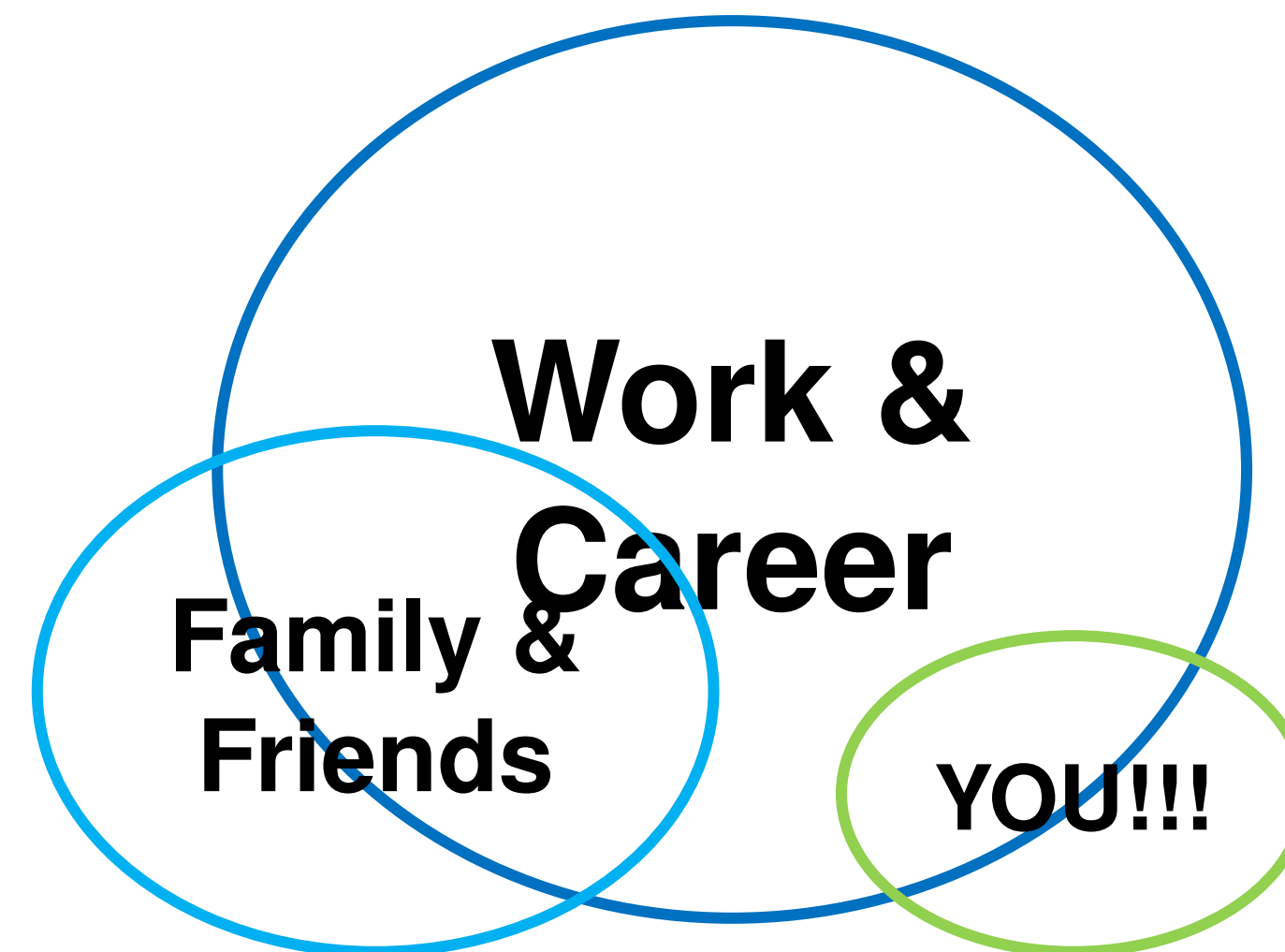
**Family &
Friends**

YOU!!!

Time Management:

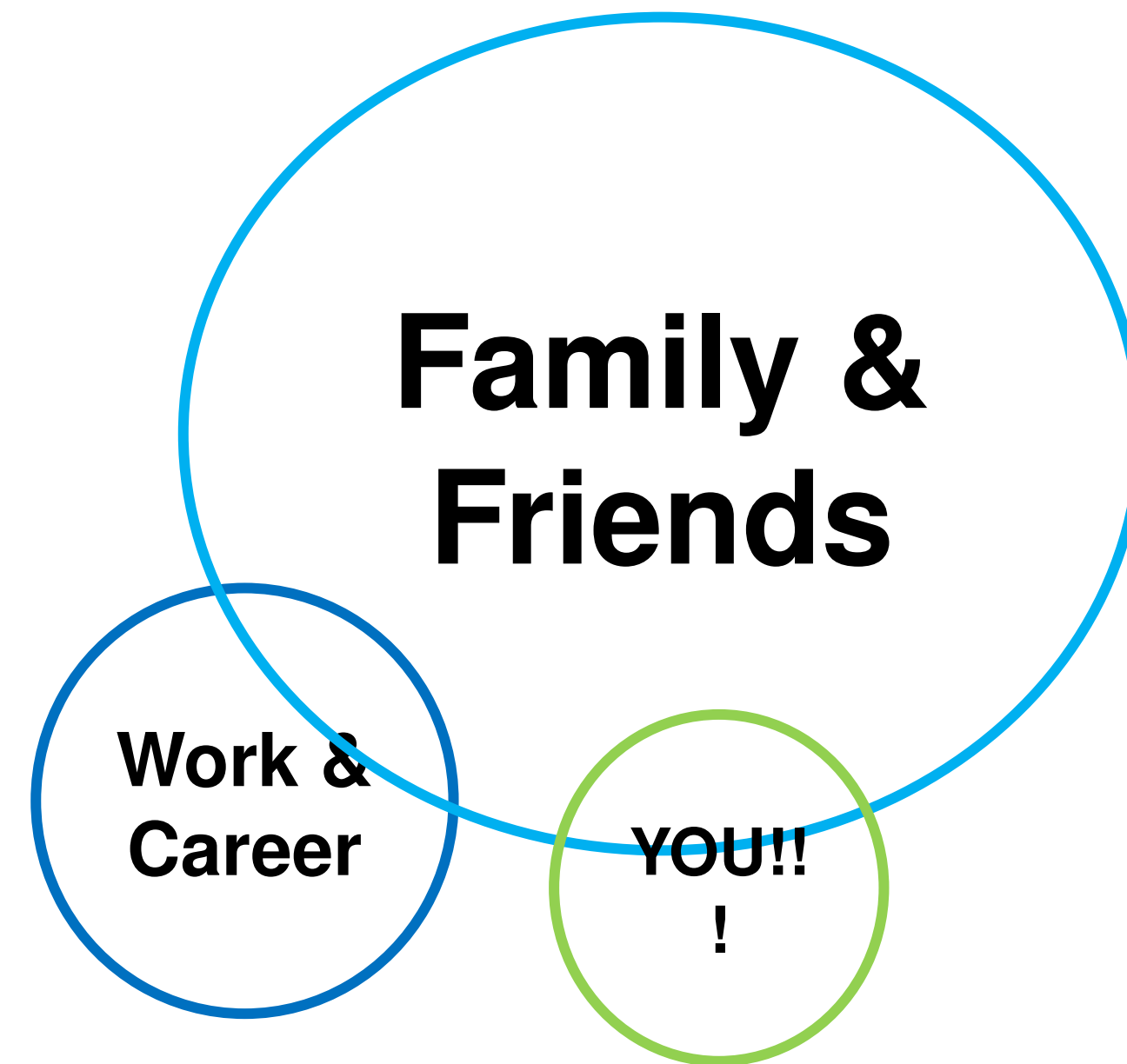
Workaholic

?



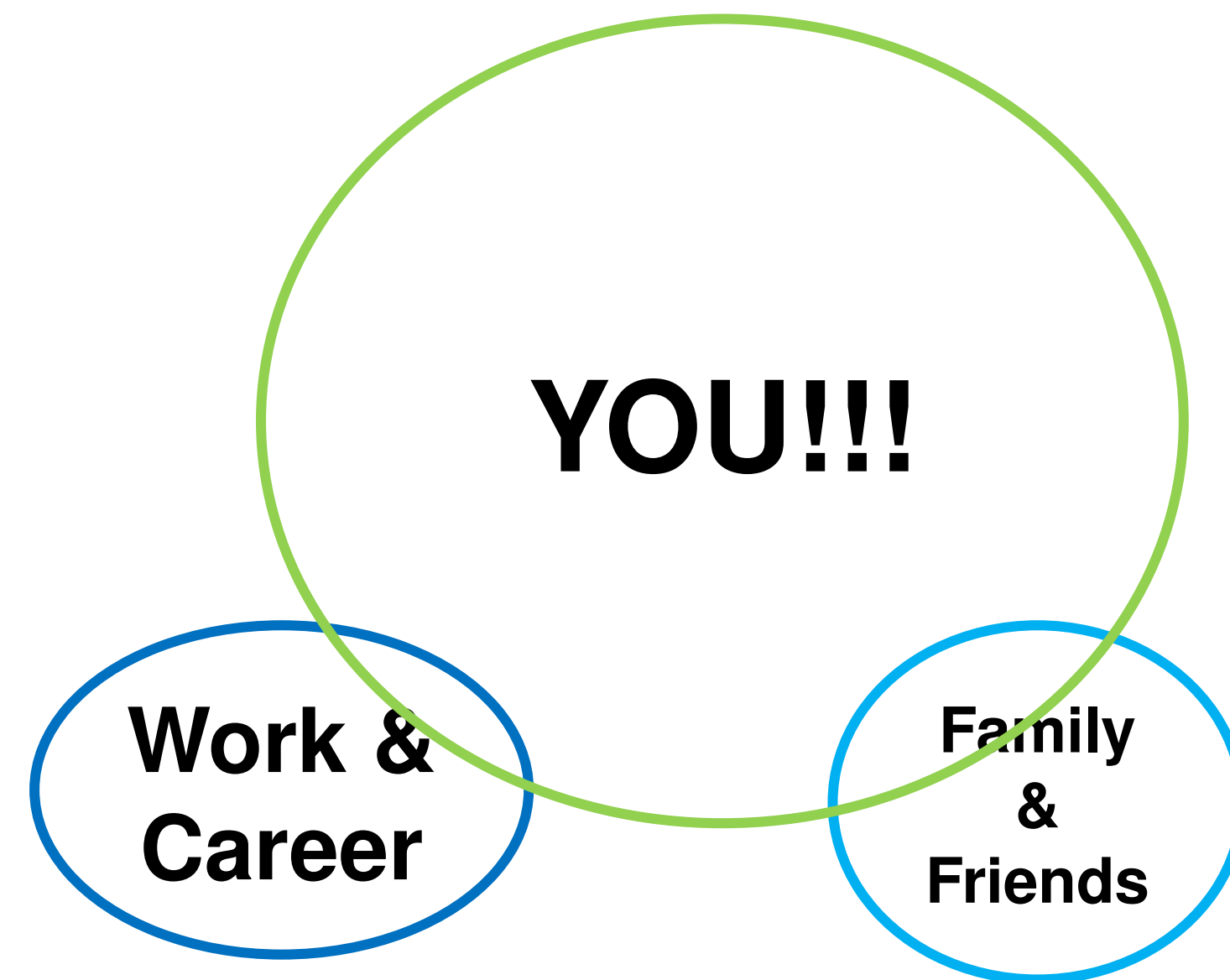
Time Management:

Family oriented?



Time Management:

Selfish h?



Time Management:

Have a balance!

**Work &
Career**

**Family &
Friends**

YOU!!!

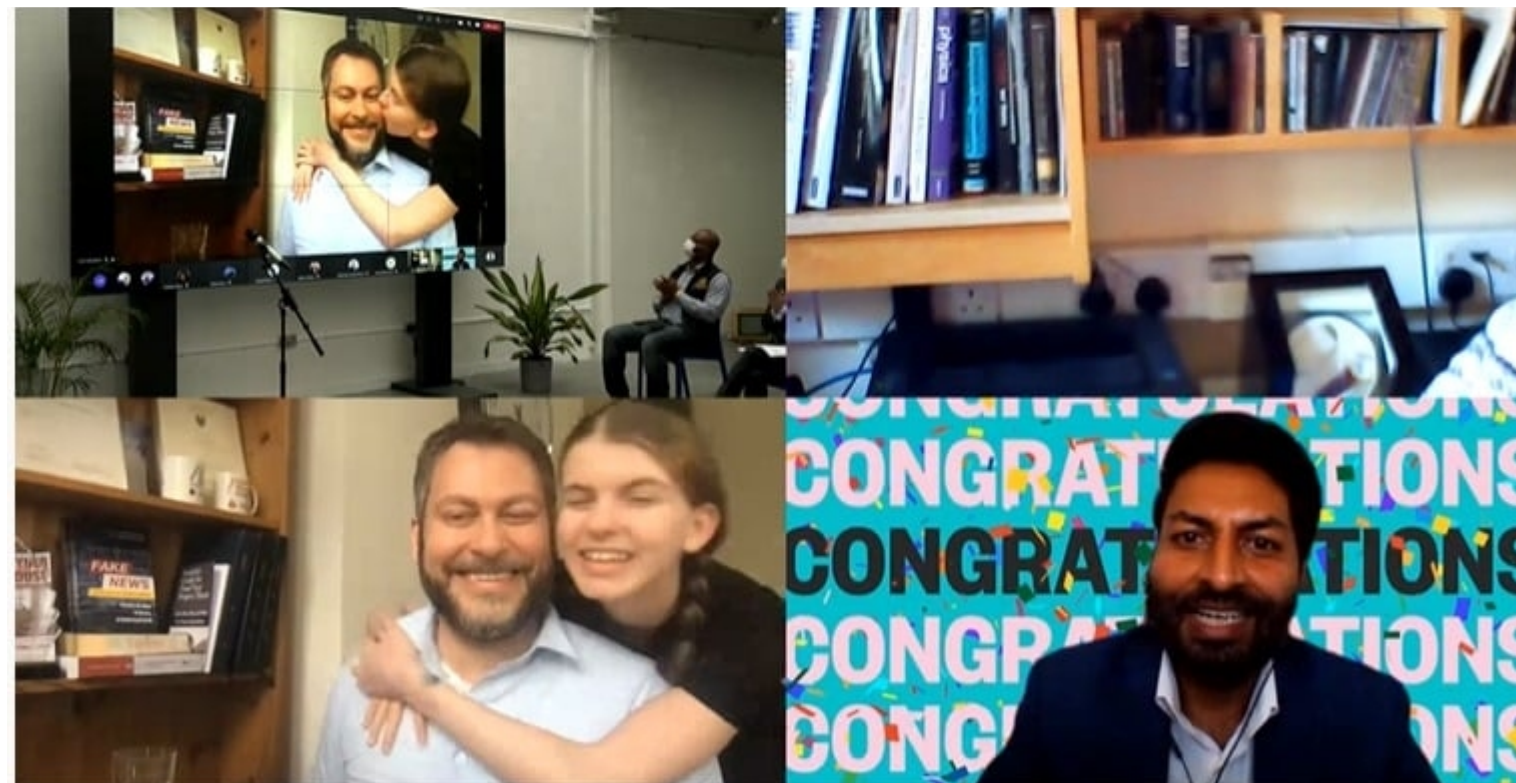
Time Management:

**Have a
balance!**

**Work &
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YOU!!!



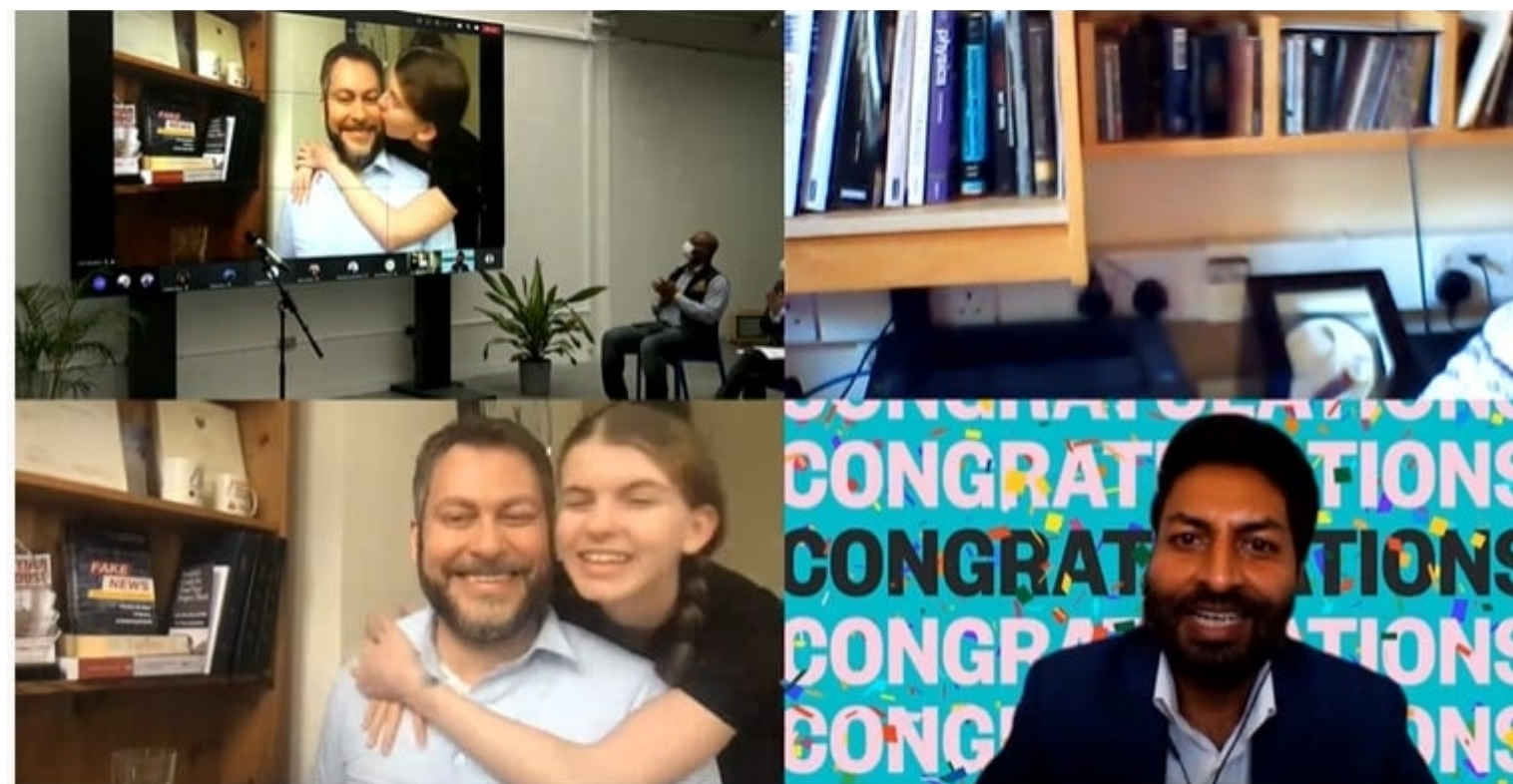
Time Management:

**Have a
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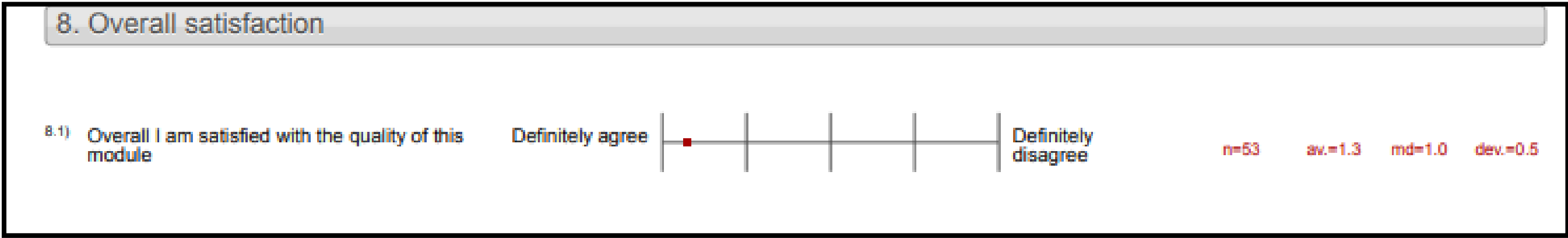
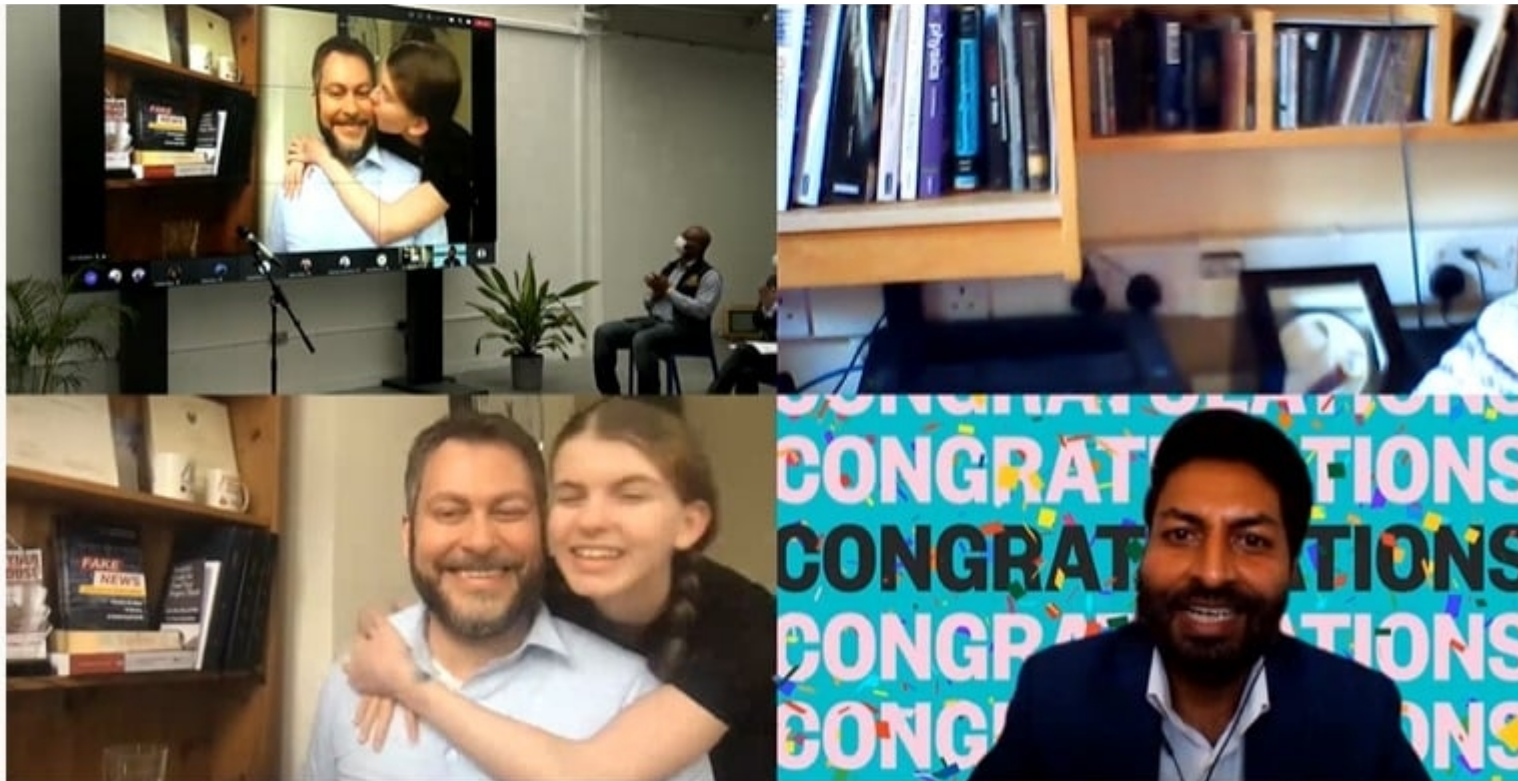
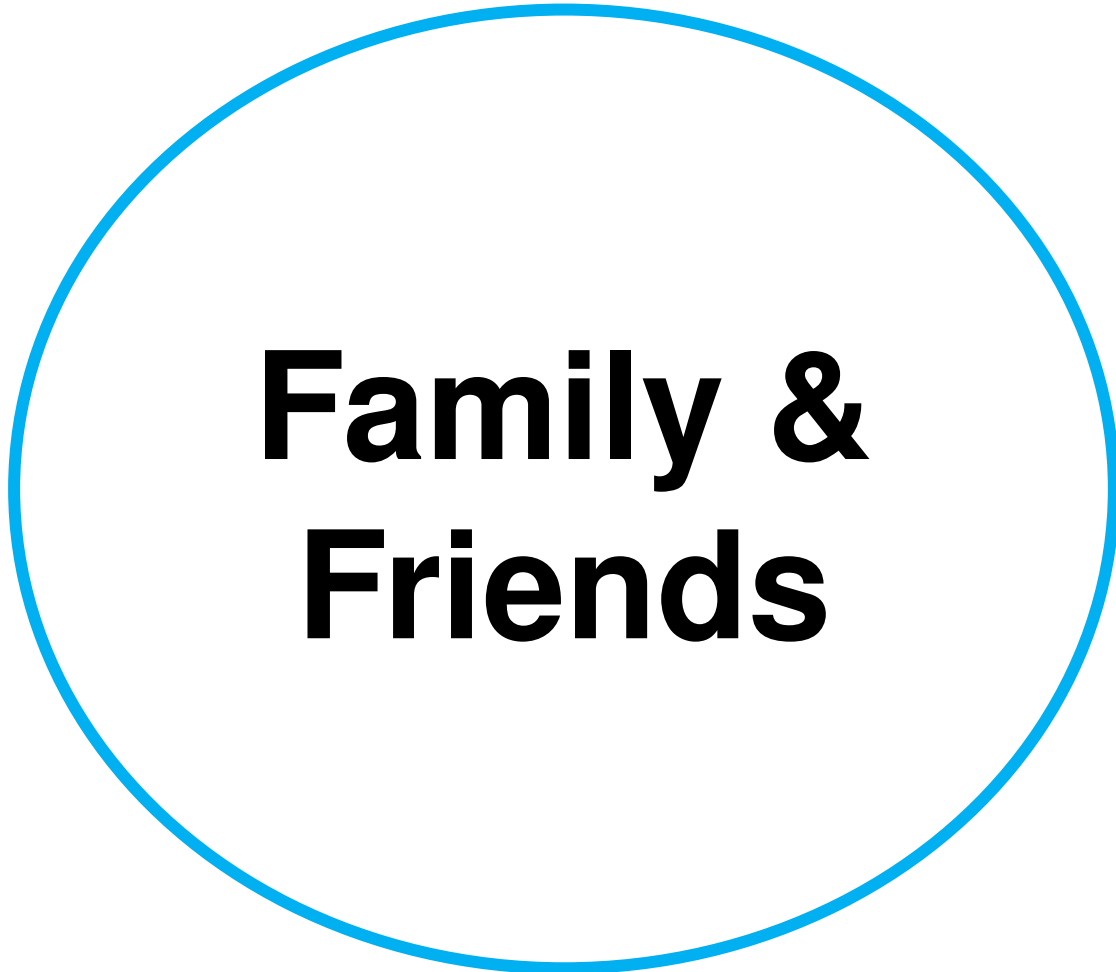
YOU!!!



- Ibrahim, Y., Safieddine, F. and Pourghomi, P. May, 2021. *Attitudes to Fake News Verification: Youth Orientations to 'Right Click' Authenticate*. Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies.
- Safieddine, F and Nahkoul, I. Mar 2021. *Mobile Instant Messaging (M.I.M.) in Improving SME in Manufacturing: Case Study*. Journal of Wireless Personal Communications. Springer Publication
- Hammad, R, Khan, Z., Safieddine, F., and Ahmed, A. Oct 2020. A Review of Learning Theories and Models underpinning Technology-enhanced learning artefacts. World Journal of Science, Technology, and Sustainable Development – Emerald Publication.

Time Management:

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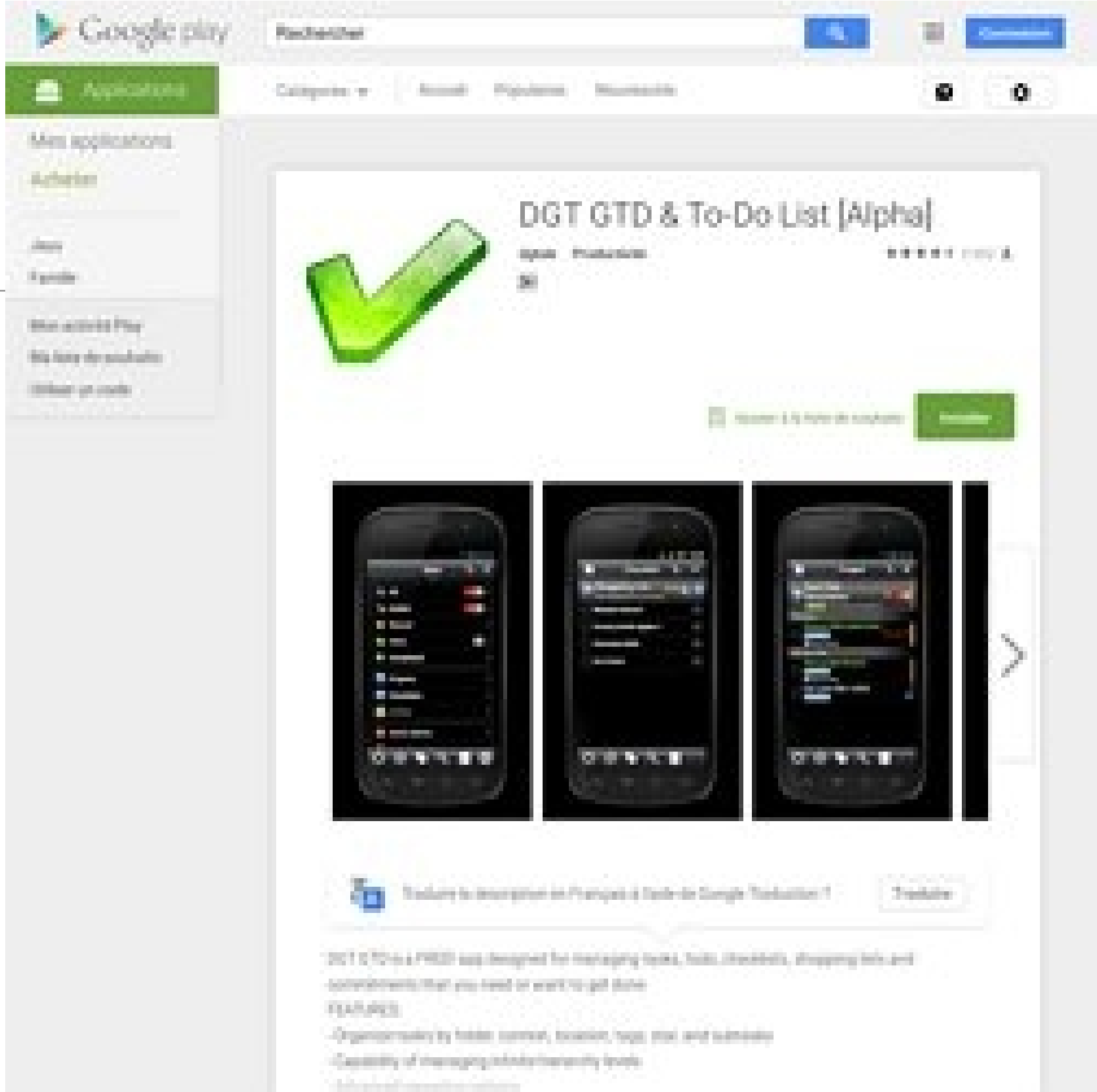
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balance!**

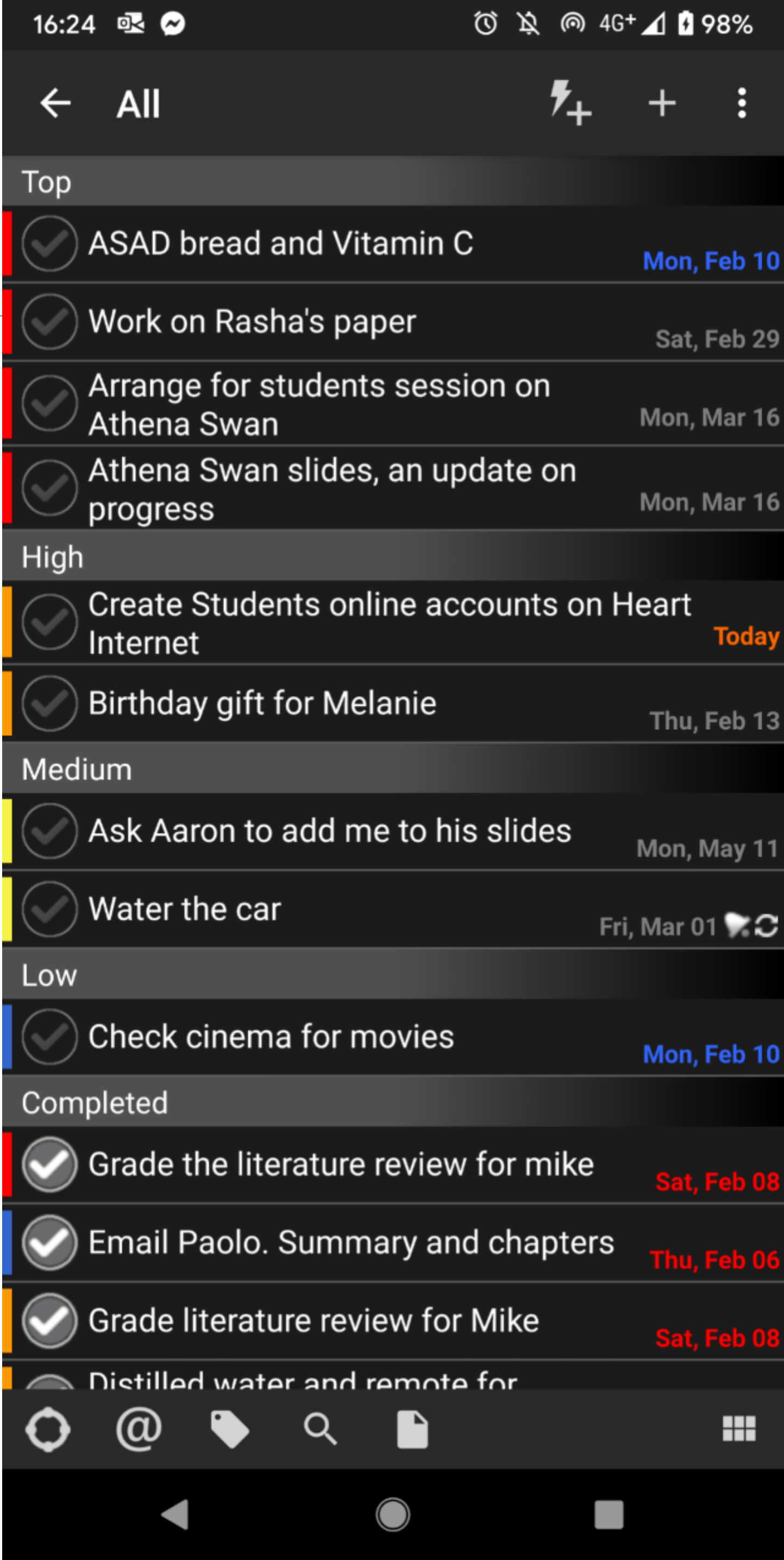
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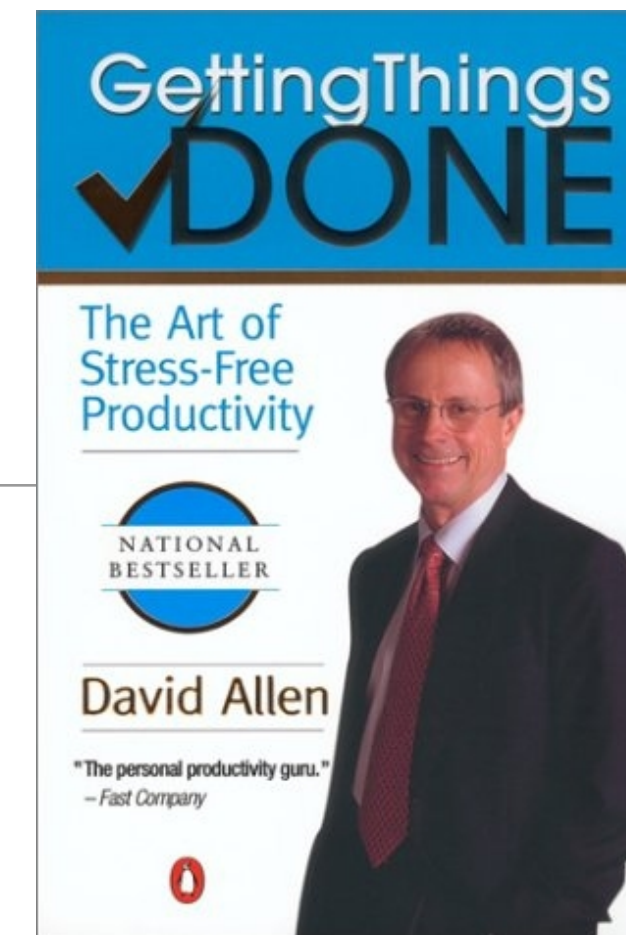
YOU!!!



DGT
GTD



David Allen's book:



- **Getting Things Done:**
 - *The art of Stress free productivity* – recommended book to read – why?
 - Time management is the source of problems for most people.
 - Managing university commitments, work commitments, family commitments, and personal commitments.
 - Get this right and you will find you are able to manage yourself much better.
 - His method is tried and tested by many including myself!!

Break 3:

- What approach will you take to manage your time this year?
- Did you any of you continue the GTD approach from year one?

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this topic, you should be able to:

- Explain the significance of the project proposal.
- Distinguish between the initial and final proposal.
- Start writing a final proposal.
- Identify the difference between aims and objectives.
- Write clear and comprehensive objectives.



Directed Reading

- Safieddine, F. (2021) Student's Guide to Final Year Project Thesis: BSc, MSc, MA, and MBA. 4th Edition. CreateSpace, New York, USA. Pages 1 – 18.
- Dawson, C. W. (2015) Projects in Computing and Information Systems: A Student's Guide. 3rd ed. Harlow, Essex: Pearson Education, Chaps. 3 & 5

