

HOW TO START PINGING

!PING!

POWER IN NUMBERS GROUP

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"

HOW TO START PINGING

Who's in the group?

- ▶ Don't base study partners on friendship!
- ▶ Look for people who:
 - ▶ Stay alert in class
 - ▶ Take notes
 - ▶ Ask questions
 - ▶ Respond to the teacher's questions.

Where to PING?

- ▶ Hold study group sessions in a place free of distractions with room to spread materials out.

How long should we PING?

- ▶ Study groups should meet for *no more* than 1-2 hours at a time.

When should we PING?

- ▶ If possible, try to meet on the same day(s) and time(s) each week.
- ▶ Treating the study session like you would treat a class will help you keep to a schedule and ensures that everyone will attend.
- ▶ Ask teachers around the building if you can PING in their classroom.

Making PING work

- ▶ *Set rules and guidelines from the start.* At your first meeting, make sure everyone has agreed on expectations, and then establish rules and guidelines (e.g. Slackers be called out and the teacher will be notified)
- ▶ *State objectives or goals.* Knowing what you want to achieve at each session helps the group manage time and stay focused.
- ▶ Make a plan for the next session as soon as possible
- ▶ Set an ending time and stick to your plan

Making PING work

- ▶ ***Get prepared.*** Before a session, be sure to finish your assigned reading, review notes, prepare any group assignments, and list topics/questions you want to review.
- ▶ ***Communicate.*** If reviewing material leads to points of disagreement or confusion that you cannot resolve as a group, then write down questions to ask your teacher.
- ▶ ***Stay on topic.*** For each session, assign someone to steer group members back on topic if they drift.

PING IDEAS

▶ Quiz Each Other

- ▶ Test each other on your knowledge! You can hold verbal trivia, or you can make fake mini-tests for one another. Have each member of your study group write down a question on a piece of paper and pass each paper around until everyone has answered each one. When you're done, compare your answers!
- ▶ Take turns asking, answering, and explaining *why* the correct answer is correct.
- ▶ Save the questions to study for midterms and finals

PING IDEAS -Teach Each Other

How: Assign people to teach and lead a discussion on each topic. Each member of your study group can be in charge of teaching a certain topic that they understand well.

Why: Teaching each other is amazing for information retention.

It's also mutually beneficial: the person being taught learns something new, and the person teaching is forced to explain and understand the material that he or she is teaching.

PING ideas

- ▶ **Rotate notes**

- ▶ **How:** Exchange and review notes with other members of your group. Review them together, and look for material that you haven't recorded in your own.

- ▶ **Why:** Everyone takes notes differently, and many times, someone else will catch something in the teacher's lecture that you didn't! This is a great way to review the material while possibly learning something new.

PING ideas

▶ Fill in the blanks

- ▶ This is probably the most obvious thing to do in a study group: answer each other's questions!
- ▶ How: Everyone should make a list of topics that they don't understand, so that together you can discuss and explain all the ideas that need explaining.
- ▶ Write down all your questions, and make sure you pass them by your PING buddies!

PING ideas: What else can we do?

- ▶ **Brainstorm study strategies!**
- ▶ Four or five heads are most certainly better than one! Try brainstorming mnemonics or songs or other tricks to help you remember key topics.
- ▶ It'll be a lot easier making memory tricks when you have several other people brainstorming along with you!
- ▶ How: You can create different types of tricks depending on the kinds of learners (multiple intelligences) that compose your group.
 - ▶ Example: If you have a lot of kinesthetic learners, for example, you might consider making a song, dance, or chant that will help your group members remember key information/terms on test day!
- ▶ Why: Studies show that connecting knowledge to movement, (rhythm and music) significantly helps (memory) retention.

Extra Tips

▶ - Communicate!

Studying with other people can become frustrating, but if you communicate clearly, things will be a lot smoother. *Talk* with your peers, ask questions, and discuss! That's what study sessions are all about. (Periodically evaluate your performance as a group: Evaluate your group's strengths and weaknesses, then work to fix areas where you are weak.)

▶ - Food.

Have some water and some snacks out, but try not to overindulge. Otherwise, your study session will turn into an impromptu banquet! It's best not to eat your meals in the middle of your study group, as they will easily shatter your group's focus.

▶ - Stay focused.

As mentioned before, setting rules and time limits are great for keeping the group focused. Making timetables and establishing priority topics are also ideal for keeping everyone on track. If people begin to veer off track, gently steer them back in the right direction!

▶ - Stay positive!

Stressing out for a big test can become even more stressful in a group if not handled correctly. Try to keep a positive environment in your group and avoid conflicts and arguments. The last thing you need before test day is a sore throat and a broken friendship.

Sources

- ▶ Strategy 1- Getting started
- ▶ <http://ctl.byu.edu/how-organize-and-conduct-effective-study-groups>

- ▶ Strategy 2
- ▶ <http://magoosh.com/hs/sat/sat-study-tips/2014/creating-a-productive-group-study-session/>

- ▶ Strategy 3
- ▶ <http://www.business.utah.edu/news/5-tips-for-an-effective-study-group/>

- ▶ Strategy 4- paper contracts!

- ▶ <https://www.cmu.edu/acadev/fastfact/group-study-web.pdf>