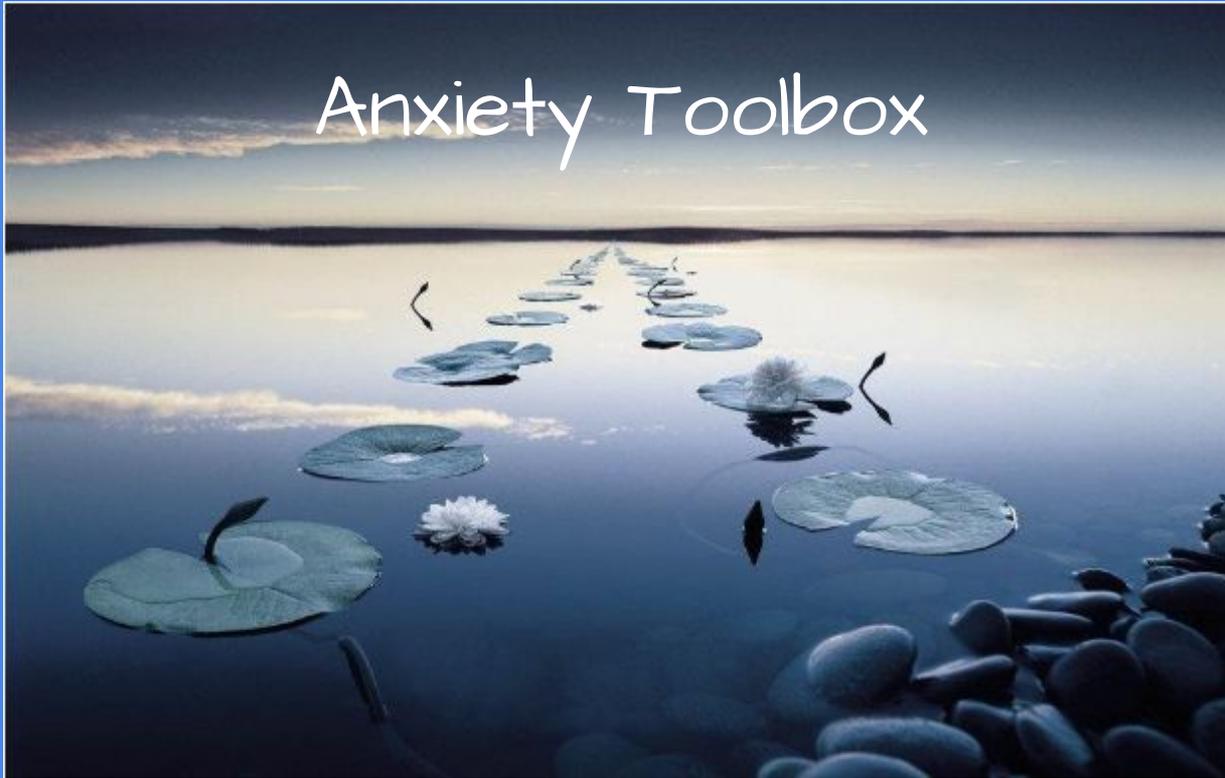


Anxiety Toolbox



Presented by CSUEB Counseling Services
Week 1 - Introduction to Anxiety



Let's Stretch . . .



A Few Zoom Guidelines

- Please mute your audio and type any questions into the chat box
- Your video can be off or on, whatever makes you most comfortable
- Confidentiality, and Zoom limitations

Community Agreements

- Push yourself to participate
- Focus on your own experience
- Share headlines, not details
- Ask others before giving them feedback
- Step forward, step back
- Assume positive intent from others
- Take responsibility for your needs

Introductions:

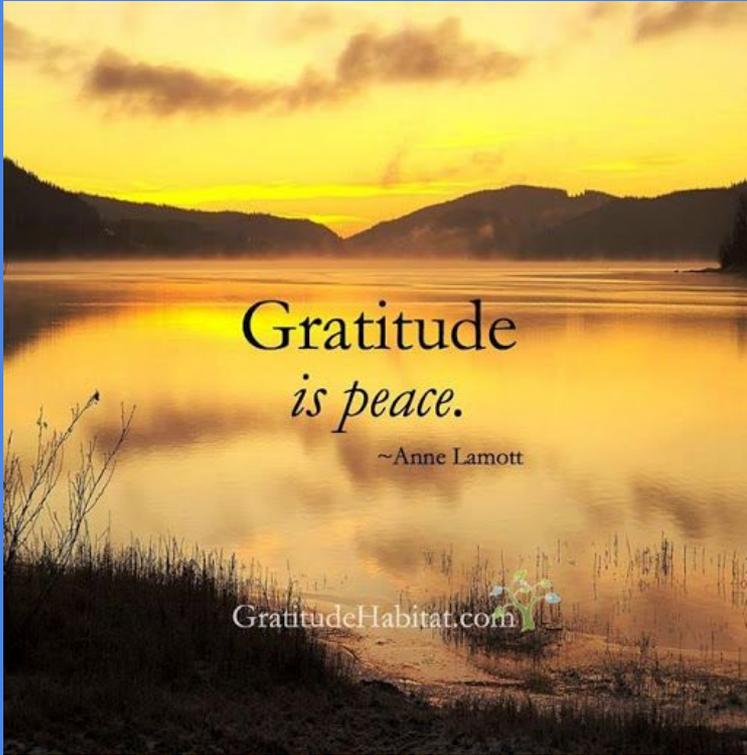
Share your name, year @ CSUEB, major
and favorite activity for relaxation



Intentions for today's Group:

- Practice Gratitude Meditation
- Defining Anxiety
- Understanding Anxiety vs. Fear
- The Stress-Response
- Diaphragmatic Breathing

My Anxiety Meter

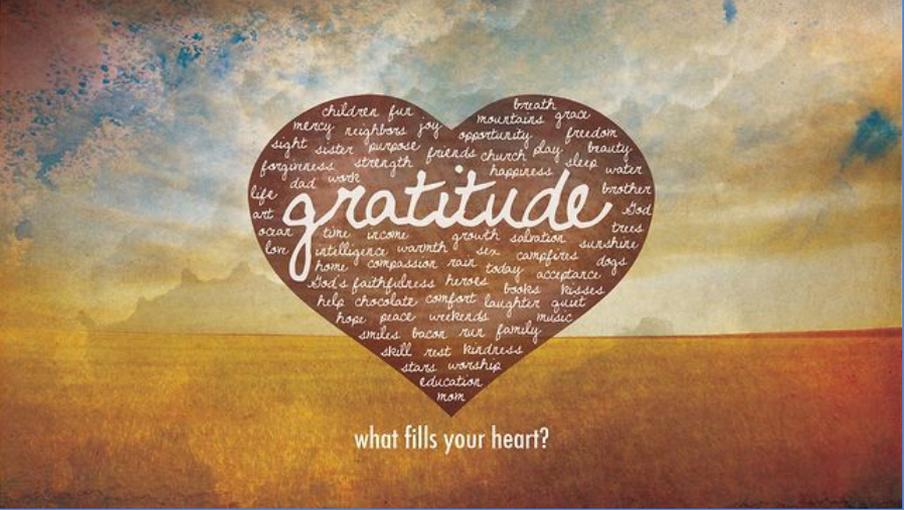


Gratitude
is peace.

~Anne Lamott

GratitudeHabitat.com

Gratitude Meditation



what fills your heart?

What is Anxiety?

Anxiety is an emotion that helps protect our physical, emotional, and social well-being. At the same time, anxiety can limit us and increasing suffering.

Here are a few definitions:

The American Psychological Association (APA): *“...an emotion characterized by feelings of tension, worried thoughts and physical changes like increased blood pressure”*

Oxford Dictionary describes anxiety as: *“A feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome”*

And some simply describe it as: *“Fear that something bad is going to happen”*

How is Anxiety Different than Fear?

Anxiety is related to an expectation of a future threat. **Fear** is the body's response to immediate danger. So:

- If you see a bear charging toward you, you feel intense **fear**.
- If you worry about a bear attacking you during your hike, you feel **anxious**.

	FEAR	VS	ANXIETY
Nature of Threat	Immediate		Future
Physical Response	Surge of Panic		Tension & Arousal
Function	Survival		Preparedness

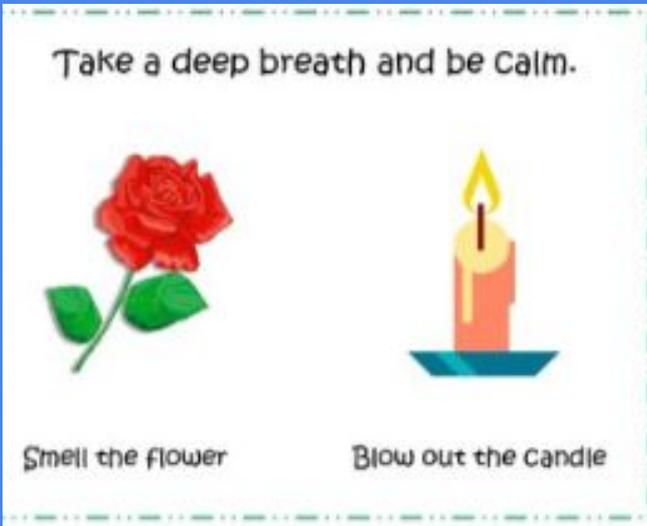
What Changes	Adaptive Functions
Faster, Stronger, Heartbeats	Brings more oxygen to muscles (to run or fight)
Rapid Breathing	Brings oxygen to muscles
Cold, Tingling, Lightheadedness, or Numbness	Blood moves away from hands/feet to major muscles. Lessens pain & bleeding. Hyperventilation creates lightheadedness & tingling
Feeling Hot or Flushed	Blood is being pumped through out your body
Chest Tightness/Discomfort	Many reasons. Increased muscle tightness & breathing to prepare for action
Stomach Aches and Nausea	Blood moves away from digestive system
Shaking or Trembling	Muscles tense & active, ready to be used
Muscle Tension	Body is prepared to use muscles
Trouble Sleeping	Mind is alert for safety
Feeling You Must Do Something	Body is ready to act to protect from danger
Visual Changes	Improved ability to see threats
Feeling Not in Reality ("Derealization", or Detached from self / body ("Depersonalization"))	Reduces emotional intensity and overwhelm during panic. Can also be related to trauma
Sweating	Prevents overheating; makes body slippery

The Stress Response (Fight-Flight-Freeze)

Diaphragmatic Breathing

When was the last time you really felt “in the moment”?

Please take a moment to reflect on a time when you were truly present to the moment (not distracted, worried about future, or stuck in past).



Diaphragmatic Breathing: “Smell the Flower, Blow Out the Candle”

A foundational skill for mindfulness practice involves retraining ourselves to breathe, as we naturally did when we were babies. This was before we developed a habit of breathing in a more rapid and shallow way.

Let's Practice Diaphragmatic Breathing!



- Place one hand on your upper chest and the other on your belly, just below your ribcage. Slowly breathe in through your nose, directing air toward your belly, so that your stomach expands. The hand on your chest should remain still, as the hand on your stomach rises.
- When you breathe out, allow your stomach to fall inward, like a deflating balloon. Exhale through pursed lips- The hand on your belly should move down to its original position.
- Then, start slowing down your breathing.



Tips for Practicing at Home:

- Lie on your back on your bed (or any flat surface) with your knees bent. Place a small pillow (or other light object) on your stomach, just below the ribcage.
- Slowly breathe in through your nose, allowing air to go deeply toward your belly. The small pillow should rise as your chest remains still.
- Allow your stomach to fall inward as you slowly exhale through pursed lips. Exhale fully. Let the pillow on your belly drop down to its original position. Practice for five minutes or more, several times a day if possible

My Anxiety Meter

Take Care!

- Thank you for joining us today!
- Think about what skills you might want to practice from home this week:
 - Diaphragmatic breathing
 - Gratitude Meditation
- It is best to practice these when you are not anxious, so that you have the routines in place when you are feeling overwhelmed.



