**5 Great Apps for Productive Muslim Students**

**

*Life as a student can be tough. You are faced with large amounts of study materials, countless assignments and challenging examinations. During this time, it is easy for things to get out of hand and when that happens, late nights and caffeine become your best friends!*

To [stay sane and on top](http://productivemuslim.com/8-ways-to-develop-concentration-and-stay-focused/?utm_source=ProM-Website&utm_medium=ProM-Website&utm_campaign=Website-Interlinking) everything during these years, proper time management and organization are a must. **Thankfully, with all the great new technologies and apps being invented these days, everyone can become a pro at managing and organizing their time!**

Take advantage of your smartphones and tablets and use the apps available to increase your productivity to [get more done in less time](http://productivemuslim.com/manage-your-attention-and-get-things-done/?utm_source=ProM-Website&utm_medium=ProM-Website&utm_campaign=Website-Interlinking). To help you get started, here are 5 great apps for students:

**1.**[**Evernote**](http://evernote.com/)

**Evernote is an award-winning free app that helps you remember everything across all the computers, phones and tablets you use.** It helps you can stay organized, capture ideas and improve productivity. With Evernote you can:

* take study notes
* capture photos
* create to-do lists
* record voice notes

**Pros:** Evernote’s useful set of tags/notebooks ensures that your notes are filed away neatly and if you ever forget where you saved them, its powerful search function allows you to search even within images.

**Cons:** All Evernote users are offered 60MB monthly to store notes. For the average user, this limit is sufficient however if you want more storage, then consider becoming a premium user and enjoy 1GB monthly.

[Evernote for iPhone/iPad](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/evernote/id281796108?mt=8%C2%A0)   [Evernote For Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.evernote&hl=en)

**2.**[**Skydrive**](https://skydrive.live.com/)

Misplacing USBs along with that important assignment can be a big headache but now that can be a thing of the past, thanks to Skydrive. **Skydrive is an online virtual storage utility that allows you to store and access your files from almost anywhere.** You can also share your files with others which means team assignments can now be more productive!

**Pros:** Skydrive offers a generous 7GB of data of free storage and if you are after more storage, then Skydrive’s pricing options outweigh many of the providers available today.

**Cons:** When using the desktop application of Skydrive, to share files and folders with others, you will need to logon to skydrive.com so that a link can be generated. Other providers offer this feature within their applications, however Skydrive’s process is straightforward and takes only a few minutes.

[Skydrive for iPhone/iPad](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/skydrive/id477537958?mt=8)   [Skydrive for Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microsoft.skydrive&hl=en)

**3.**[**myHomework**](https://myhomeworkapp.com/%E2%80%8E)

Organize and manage your studies with the myHomework app. The myHomework app helps you keep track of everything.**It acts like your very own student planner except that it is paperless and readily available to you on your mobile device and web.**

**Pros:** The myHomework App gives students the ability to add in their class schedules, exam timetables, homework/assignment due dates and then, view them according to subject, type or priority. Furthermore, it encourages students to be organized, which helps them focus more on the work and procrastinate less on other things.

**Cons:** Students need to check the app regularly to see when due dates are approaching. However if you wish to set alerts to notify you of approaching deadlines, then a feature for this is available in the paid version.

[MyHomework for iPhone/iPad](https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/myhomework/id303490844?mt=8)   [MyHomework for Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.myhomeowork&hl=en)

**4.**[**Anki**](http://ankisrs.net/)

Ace your examinations and remember anything you want with Anki flashcards. **With Anki flashcards, no more wasting time with paper flashcards because you can now create beautiful flashcards and have Anki test you on them!**

**Pros:** Anki offers a variety of features to make memorizing information easy. Some features include the ability to ‘suspend cards’ so that they do not appear during a test round, an inbuilt timer and an integrated dictionary.

**Cons:** Anki is available free only for Android devices (under name AnkiDroid) and as a paid version for iOS users. Flashcards+ however is a great alternative for iPhones/iPads.

[Anki for Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ichi2.anki&hl=en)   [Anki for Windows](https://productivemuslimcom.podio.com/research--content/item/www.ankisrs.net/)
[Flashcards+ for iPhone/iPad](https://itunes.apple.com/gr/app/flashcards%2B/id408490162?mt=8)

**5.**[**Dictionary.com Dictionary & Thesaurus App**](http://dictionary.reference.com/)

Search up definitions and synonyms with the Dictionary.com Dictionary & Thesaurus app. **The Dictionary.com Dictionary & Thesaurus app gives you access to over 2,000,000 definitions, synonyms & antonyms at your fingertips –**absolutely essential if you want to spend less time searching for words and more time writing up that essay!

**Pros:** The Dictionary.com Dictionary & Thesaurus app requires no Internet connection for most of its content, audio pronunciation to help you get the word right, customizable font sizes for better readability and even a medical and science dictionary!

**Cons:** Free version comes with ads however an ad-free version is available at a small price.

[iPhone App](https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/dictionary.com-dictionary/id308750436?mt=8)   [Android App](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.dictionary&hl=en%C2%A0)

So there you have it! 5 useful apps to help you organise your work, manage your deadlines and study more effectively so that you, as a Productive Muslim Student, can [succeed in your studies](http://productivemuslim.com/tips-for-university-students/?utm_source=ProM-Website&utm_medium=ProM-Website&utm_campaign=Website-Interlinking), In sha Allah!

*Do you know of any more great apps for students? Let us know through a comment below!*

[**[App Review] Top Five Apps for The Productive Student**](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=xjrNWJsIhVqV6btxyYX6RQ)

*Become an active member of the ProductiveMuslim community and enrich it with your thoughts.* ***Leave a comment on this article*** *and with it, your presence. We look forward to reading your comments.*



*As students juggling assignments, presentations, projects and other co-curricular activities, more often than not many of us feel like our time has been stretched too thin.*

The solution to this would be to learn [how to manage](http://productivemuslim.com/productive-part-timer-how-to-integrate-multiple-roles/?awt_l=EHVDU&awt_m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz#utm_source=ProM-Website&utm_medium=ProM-Website&utm_campaign=Website-Interlinking) [our time](http://productivemuslim.com/maximize-use-of-your-time-with-these-tips-from-the-seerah/?awt_l=EHVDU&awt_m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz#utm_source=ProM-Website&utm_medium=ProM-Website&utm_campaign=Website-Interlinking) properly, but there is another solution that some might have overlooked: Utilizing tools that enable us to work more efficiently.

As a self-confessed tech geek, I have tried and tested numerous applications, trying to find the best apps that would enable me to work better. Over the years, I have fallen in love with many applications and discarded even more.

In this article, I will be sharing 5 of the applications I use regularly in my life as an undergraduate.

**App #1: Mendeley**

**Use:** Organizing literature and writing papers
**Desktop app:** Windows, Mac, Linux
**Mobile app:** iPad, iOS
**Price:** Free; storage space free up to 2GB

**1.1 Why I use this app**One of the problems I faced when doing research is organizing all the literature (i.e., journals, PDFs, eBooks, conference papers, etc.) I gathered from the Internet. The more papers I wrote, the more literature I collected and the more confused I got with all my resources.

The second problem I faced was that I hated having to manually key in the citations according to a specific citation format. I spent a long time just writing, sorting and editing the bibliography of my papers, time that I could spend doing something else.

Mendeley solved both of my issues (and other issues I did not even knew existed!).

**1.2 App walkthrough**

*What is Mendeley?*
[Mendeley](http://productivemuslim.com/productive-studying-start-right-and-ace-that-paper/?awt_l=EHVDU&awt_m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz) is a free reference manager that helps you to organize your research, collaborate with others online and discover the latest research.

*Why you should use this app*

Mendeley allows you to organize your literature into folders and then sort the literature in those folders according to author, title, year published, and even the journal title.

It also allows you to highlight and insert notes directly onto the PDF itself, thus making it easy for you to locate the important information you found earlier.

It has a search function that allows you to search across all your documents, both in the titles of papers and their contents.

It gives you the ability to insert citations automatically, according to the format you require (side note: you will have to install the Microsoft Word plug-in here first).

After inserting citations throughout your paper using the Mendeley plug-in, all you have to do to insert your entire bibliography is to click the above button. Mendeley will extract all the information automatically and create your bibliography for you in seconds.

**1.3 The Good**

* Organization capabilities
* One-click citation and bibliography
* Search open access libraries for more references
* iPad and iPhone applications allow you to read your papers on the go

**1.4 The Bad**

* Sometimes (rarely) crashes
* Online storage space free only until 2GB

**1.5 Other Remarks**Since I started using the app last year, I have never found the need to find another application to replace Mendeley. It does what it is supposed to, is beautifully designed compared with other similar apps I have seen and saves a lot of my time. The 2GB online storage limitation is not that big of an issue as it should be enough to store hundreds of files.

If you woud like some other apps to compare Mendeley with, you can check out the company’s useful comparison chart [here](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=KCX6Q1U.bmbm82f611g9KQ).

LINK TO APP: [www.mendeley.com](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=ovKlwmWa33JYAhtin9ephg)

**App #2: oTranscribe**

**Use:** Transcribing interviews
**Desktop App:** Chrome and Safari web broswers
**Mobile App:** None
**Price:** Free

**2.1 Why I use this app**When doing qualitative research papers, I often had to transcribe hours of interviews. It was excruciating having to go back and forth between my audio player and my word document, pausing and rewinding, while trying to catch what my interviewees were saying.

As many a friend complained: “A 30 minute interview transcript could very well take up 3 to 4 hours of my time!”

oTranscribe provides you with the one and only interface you need to do your transcribing effectively.

**2.2 App walkthrough**

*What is oTranscribe?*
oTranscribe is a free web app that aims to take the pain out of transcribing recorded interviews.

*Why you should use this app*

It takes only one click to upload your audio or video. No registrations or sign-ups needed.

Since you do not have to take your hands off the keyboard, oTranscribe gives you the ability to type faster. To pause and play, press the “ESC” button. “F1” rewinds, “F12” forwards, and “F3” and “F4” slows down and speeds up the audio so you can better listen to your interviewees.

The best thing about oTranscribe is that when you pause, it automatically rewinds the audio for 2 seconds, so your fingers have time to start typing again when you hit “play”.

Another feature I really like is the ability to timestamp. Often during recorded interviews, you will come across unclear audio. What timestamp does is that it marks the time of the audio on the document, so you can just click on it to give it another listen later. The audio will then automatically skip to the time shown on the timestamp.

Lastly, the app also allows you to easily export your transcript in markdown or plaintext, allowing you to open it with your Word program. For those using Google Drive, you can also export it directly into your Google Drive account.

**2.3 The Good**

* Say goodbye to switching between multiple applications
* Auto rewind when paused
* Hyperlinked timestamp

**2.4 The Bad**

* Supports only .mp3 / .mp4 / wav files. Users will need to convert their audio to those formats
* Limited to one transcription audio at a time
* Open sourced, meaning there is limited support if things go wrong

**2.5 Other Remarks**I have shared this app with numerous friends and all of them testify that the app gets the work done effectively. The limitation of one transcription at a time can be an asset, as it forces you to concentrate and complete each audio before moving to another. Also, if you have audio and video files that are not within the accepted formats, you can convert your files using [media.io](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=sJpd_TsSykRl_d7T1UPE3Q) before uploading them to oTranscribe.

LINK TO APP: [www.oTranscribe.com](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=WoKXuzGrG7lL9DG68myC4Q)

**App #3: Doodle**

**Use:** Scheduling meetings
**Desktop App:** All web browsers
**Mobile App:** iPhone, iPad and Android
**Price:** Free for desktop; paid for mobile

**3.1 Why I use this app**University life is such that every student has his/her own schedule, personalized according to the subjects he/she signed up for. While this allows for more flexibility and freedom, it can cause a problem when trying to schedule a time for group discussions.

Case in point, I recently had to meet  9 team members for a project I was working on. In the past, I would have to liaise with them by going back and forth, trying to find a date where everyone would be free.

With Doodle, all I had to do was key in the time slots where I would be free, send my team members a link and wait for them to choose the slots where they are free!

**3.2 App walkthrough**

*What is Doodle?*Doodle is an app that simplifies the process of scheduling events, whether they are board or team meetings, dinners with friends, reunions, weekend trips, or anything else that needs scheduling.

*Why you should use this app*

It is very easy to create a new event, for example a meeting, and choose the times that you propose the meeting be held. Once you have selected all the time proposals and completed setting up the poll, all you have to do is send the link given to your team members.

 It is also very easy for your team members to choose their preferred time slots; they do not even have to register for Doodle! All they have to do is to click on the time slots they prefer and click save.

When everyone is done selecting his/her slots, you can view either the most popular slot to have a team meeting, or the slots where every team member is free to meet you individually.

It is that easy!

**3.3 The Good**

* Ease of use for both creator and participant of poll
* Easy to share link to poll
* Ability to choose any time and duration you prefer

**3.4 The Bad**

* Mobile app is not free
* Anyone with the link can edit the changes made by other users

**3.5 Other Remarks**
I have only recently stumbled upon Doodle, but I can foresee myself using it even in my personal life, from organizing dinners with my family and friends, to scheduling meetings for work purposes.

LINK TO APP: [www.doodle.com](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=.q5KdNCyhaxCIVR6CcSoNQ)

**App #4: Bunkr**

**Use:** Designing beautiful presentations
**Desktop App:** All web browsers
**Mobile App:** None
**Price:** Free for 2 presentations; $6(US)/mth for unlimited

**4.1 Why I use this app**When it comes to designing slides for presentations, the golden rule often overlooked is that less is more. Presentation slides only serves two purposes: To give the audience a simple visual aid in line with the content of the presentation and to remind the speaker of what he is supposed to speak of next.

Because of these reasons, I only need an application that provides two kinds of content for my slides: Beautiful images and clear fonts. Bunkr gets that job done.

**4.2 App walkthrough**

*What is Bunkr?*With just a few clicks, Bunkr is an application that allows you to create an interactive presentation and to share it online.

*Why you should use this app*

Bunkr’s interface is simple and minimalistic. This forces you to focus on what is important to include in your slides, so when you present, the audience’s attention is on you, not on your slides.

Under the tab “web services”, you can even search for images in the Internet from within Bunkr itself.

Bunkr’s bookmarklet lets you collect content (e.g., images, videos, quotes, notes, links, etc.) from the Internet in just a few clicks. This is cool because …

 … you can then insert these content into your presentation slides directly!

 And when you are done, you can easily access the slides you designed using the link provided ([Here is an example I did for this article!](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=gdjFh8bDbs3ruWdy_nPGuA)). Alternatively, you can also export the slides to PDF or PPTX format.

**4.3 The Good**

* Easily find images from around the web within the app
* Drag and drop interface
* Export to PDF and PPTX format

**4.4 The Bad**

* No graphs or charts
* Limits to free account, heavy users might need to upgrade to paid account

**4.5 Other Remarks**Personally, I feel Bunkr is only for those who love simplicity in their presentation slides. Students who love to fill up their slides with lots of information would find Bunkr’s minimalist approach very limiting.

As of now, Bunkr is still in its Beta phase. This is good news as it means that we can look forward to more features from the Bunkr development team in the future, In sha Allah.

LINK TO APP: [www.bunkr.me](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=nRS_0PJabfPCZGJjC4_ApQ)

**App #5: Dropbox**

**Use:** Online storage
**Desktop App:** Windows, Mac, Linux, Web Browsers
**Mobile App:** iPad, iPhone, Android, Blackberry, Kindlefire
**Price:** Free 2GB – 16GB, upgrade for more space

**5.1 Why I use this app**As representative for several classes, often I had to distribute readings and handouts to other students. Before discovering Dropbox, I would leave the set of notes at the photocopy shop on campus and anyone who wanted the notes would make their way to the shop, print a copy and bring the notes to class. This worked really well until it dawned on me just how much paper was wasted in the process!

With Dropbox, however, my lecturers would send me the soft copy of the notes and I would upload them to my Dropbox account. I would then send an email to everyone who registered for the class to download the notes from my account.

This way, consumption of paper decreases (as almost everyone has tablets or smart phones these days), the notes get delivered directly to everyone’s inboxes and because the notes are sent as a Dropbox download link instead of an attachment, email space is also saved.

Besides the above, I also use Dropbox for other purposes such as:

* Storing backup copies of my research papers
* Storing my readings and slides for classes
* Syncing photos with my iPad and iPhone
* Transferring files between my Mac, iPad and iPhone
* Using it with [dropitto.me](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=IwOp5asHKlhF9t5AAZ0aWg), an application that allows others to send large files (<75mb) to my Dropbox account
* Streaming audio files for my [podcast for Dean’s List students](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=x6cVmSxacVDr6VXDTdfefw)

**5.2 App walkthrough**

*What is Dropbox?* Dropbox is a free service that lets you bring your photos, docs and videos anywhere and share them easily.

*Why you should use this app*

Uploading files and adding folders is very easy to do in Dropbox. Just click “upload” and choose your file. If you have the desktop app installed, you can just drag the file you wish to upload into your Dropbox folder. It will automatically sync across all your Dropbox-enabled devices.

Files synced to your mobile devices can be stored offline for viewing without Internet connection as well.

Sharing files and folders with anyone is just as easy. All you have to do is click “share”, and “get link”. The link to download your file will then be automatically copied to your clipboard, so all you have to do is send the link out via email, Facebook or other text-enabled applications.

When a person clicks on the link you sent, all she/he has to do to download the file(s) is to click on “Download” and choose one of the above two options.

**5.3 The Good**

* Easy to upload, share and download
* Beautiful interface
* Compatible across most devices
* Photos sync automatically

**5.4 The Bad**

* Limit of 2GB – 16GB, after which a user would have to upgrade
* Cannot edit files (e.g. Word documents) from within Dropbox

**5.5 Other Remarks**Dropbox is the perfect application for online storage for me as it is very easy to use compared with other applications. There are also a host of applications that can work with Dropbox, such as [Droptunes](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=UcskfOMmJp4x.BT6D.qjYw) (stream audio from your Dropbox) and [Scriptogram](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=pjeryMcz.i6aiQ91CvkgzA) (blog from your Dropbox).

However, Dropbox’s offering of free online storage begins only at 2GB (and caps at 16GB), increasing only when the [user completes certain actions](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=ktOaJoOkyaqC4Pl8.uxZzw)like recommending friends to join Dropbox. On the other hand, [Box](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=m9gsao5LNXgoWQeeFTWmGA) automatically offers a 10GB free online storage space, while [Google Drive’s](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=X9I77O6c7.5vYhOGXEntSw) offer begins at 15GB.

Dropbox’s 16GB of free space should be enough for most users, but if you are ever in need of more, do what I do – use all three applications.

LINK TO APP: [www.dropbox.com](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=vup6C5Zc.y1F.atLREtAPQ)

**More Free Apps**

These are some of the others apps I use regularly as well:

**For writing:**

* [Quip:](http://productivemuslim.com/tech-review-discovering-new-world-writing-apps/?awt_l=EHVDU&awt_m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz) Online word processor that allows collaboration of documents. I use Quip to take down notes in class. Available for iOs Android and the web.
* Simplenote: The best way to keep simple notes. I use it to catch any idea or thought that comes to mind. Available for iOS, Android, Mac and the web.

**Other:**

* Trello: Organizer, to-do list, program planner, ideas board, resolutions tracker. Trello is as flexible as you deem it to be. I even use it with my news team to gather news daily! Available for iOs, Android, Windows 8/RT and the web.
* Feedly: A news aggregator application. Whenever my favourite websites update, Feedly pushes all new content automatically onto its dashboard, so I do not have to go to all the different websites. Available for iOs, Android and the web.

In conclusion, I hope you will give the above applications a spin and I know, In sha Allah, they will help you save hours of your precious time.

*If you know of other awesome applications that I should try out, please feel free to share them in the comments. I would love to hear from you!*

**About the Author:**

**Nur Fadhilah Wahid** is a seeker of knowledge, a Muslimah in progress, and an aspiring writer. She writes on her own site [www.fadhilahwahid.com](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=WonxzGRps3.j9N8LppzQ7Q) and other online publications.[Subscribe to her personal letters](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EHVDU&m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz&b=.gr2nIIGYavAVuAsYiNx2Q) for writings not published anywhere, as well as for updates on projects she’s working on. She believes in the magic that can happen when like-minded individuals come together, biiznillah!

**P.S. Found this article useful? Share the khair!** I'd suggest emailing this article [**[App Review] Top Five Apps for The Productive Student**](http://productivemuslim.com/app-review-top-five-apps-for-the-productive-student/?awt_l=EHVDU&awt_m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz)to at least 1 person (relative, friend or colleague) who you think could benefit from it. **Better yet, ask them to signup at** [**http://ProductiveMuslim.com/Newsletter**](http://ProductiveMuslim.com/Newsletter?awt_l=EHVDU&awt_m=3a5kE8aQ7wSbnEz) and get Abu Productive's exclusive newsletter (sent only via email) with a productivity tip of the week sent every blessed Friday. :)

