SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL DATA AND FINDINGS

The original data and findings I collected revealed that the location students are most productive in when studying for exams is within the university library (64.5%), and at home (58.1%). With 64.5% of respondents admitting that they become distracted easily by other people or tasks around them when they are studying. This is a high percentage of students who are easily side-tracked and are subject to unproductive tendencies when studying. I uncovered that the preferred time of day to study is in the morning (38.7%), and in the afternoon (29%), disproving my prediction that students favour studying at night. I was able to confirm that 45.2% of students set learning goals or checkpoints before beginning their studying, with 41.9% stating that they will only sometimes use this learning method.

My prediction that while studying at the university’s library students are commonly tired, talking to friends, and spending $10+ on food and or parking, is supported by my collected data as almost everyone identified with at least one of these options or all three (refer to question 7). 41.9% of respondents use flashcards and charts to retain information however, there is still a high percentage of 29% who never use this method of study, perhaps indicating that students are no longer using traditional methods. A total of 29% also believe that studying in a group, or a social setting is not helpful as explained by these respondents:

- “It depends on the subject and the content that I am trying to study. Sometimes it is helpful and other times not much is achieved, and it can be distracting.”
- “I prefer to work at my own pace to avoid getting distracted.”
- “When the exam is closer, I enjoy working with other people to feel more confident in my knowledge.”
- “I feel as though when I am able to speak and articulate what I am studying, it helps me to get a better understanding for it.”
- “Depends on the people, I find with good mates it is usually a waste of time, however with people from my classes it is generally really beneficial.”
- “In some cases, being with a group can be helpful because you can work together to solve issues. I also find trying to teach someone something a valuable learning tool. BUT people can be distracting, and you might be feeling productive and then look back and you’ve barely done anything. Also depends on the people obviously.”