Staff reviews: Useful apps for every facet of life

Fitplan
Taylor Forrest

It's after Thanksgiving. You can't even count how many pieces of pumpkin pie you engulfed over break. You know that you need to work out, but you don't know what to do and you can't afford a personal trainer. Well, you aren't alone and there are other options out there. Fitplan is a fitness application that allows you to choose regimented workouts from top athletes across the nation. The app costs $7.99 per month and while that isn't super cheap, I think it is a good substitute for hiring a personal trainer, which can cost hundreds of dollars per month. I used the app for over two weeks and chose to follow Jennifer Trainer's workout plan. They have 30, 60 and 90 day plans that have different, targeted goals, such as a slimmer waist or gaining strength. The workouts come with written and video instructions and are easy to follow. The app also tracks the amount of time of your workout, which is a feature I enjoyed so I knew exactly how long I was engaged in physical activity. I would recommend this app if you can hold yourself accountable to go to the gym and actually complete the workouts because there isn't a personal trainer reminding you to do so. I think that these workouts are well worth the money.
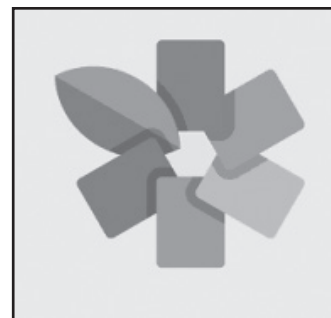

Snapseed
Hanna House

Snapseed rated 5 out of 5 stars. If you like to take photos often, Snapseed is the app for you. This app is the app of apps of photo editors. Some of the main editing option available are tuning the image, cropping, transforming, healing, rotating, and brushing. After the photo is thoroughly edited, you have the option to add text to make your picture perfect. There are over ten different filters and different frames to choose from. After adding all the filters you want, you can go through them all and turn each one off at a time to see if you really want that effect on it. I love this feature. It makes it so easy to see if your effect is really helping or if you went a little overboard. If that isn't enough to sell you on this app, when swiping up you open an insights tab to look at some helpful tips when altering a photo. Some of the tips include how to master the brush tool, how to work with reds, and text techniques to make your photo the best it can be. Overall I would rate this app five out of five stars and a must have for any avid photo editor.
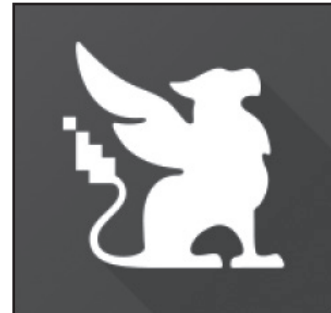
Habitiaca
Kylie Stamper

Habitica is an app that combines productivity and gaming to encourage users to complete tasks. If you need to get things done, but you also need rewards and a "break" from working, this app is for you. The app is fully customizable. You put in your own tasks, habits, and dailies, and each time you complete a task under each category, you get health and experience points. The more tasks you complete, the more points you get. Once you get enough experience points, you level up! I downloaded the app the Sunday before Thanksgiving break and I am up to level 2, halfway to level 3. You can also customize your avatar with regular clothes or battle gear. Some of the other options for the gaming aspect include joining guilds, accepting challenges, creating groups to motivate you to do you work, and earning rewards for completed tasks. It also lets you set reminders, and once you check off those reminders you get more points! So if you need points and rewards to motivate you to do work, even tasks as simple as eating breakfast or sending an email, this is the app for you. Personally, I have finished things that I normally wouldn't have simply because I have them in this app and because I get closer to a new level if I complete them!

Pokemon Go
Cortney Showalter

When I was starting to play Pokémon Go, I was really confused. I had to ask some of the students around campus that play this game to understand how it works at first. A lot of people on campus play this game. It wasn't hard to find help. This game actually unexpectedly brought me closer to some people who are now my close friends. Once I realized how to play it was really exciting to catch the Pokémon. I found that it was more fun when I was either catching new Pokémon, evolving a Pokémon, or when I got to battle the gyms on campus.In the beginning of the game you level up really quickly which made it more exciting for me. Once I got to higher levels (about level 20) it was starting to take much more of my time to continuously play the game. Therefore when I started to slow down on playing I just kept the game up on my phone so that way it could track my steps so that way I could hatch my eggs. To me, actually hatching the egg is a really exciting moment. You can only go so fast before it stops counting your steps. That is how the compsany controls people from driving and playing the game at the same time. This game is really good for people who go on walks every day or plan on going for a run.