Final product

I'm creating a website called My Academic Planner. I want to help students stay organized through their academic journey, whether that's through keeping track of grades, stats for college admissions, or stats for entering the workforce.

Research:

Why is planning ahead important?

"College planning is a process that involves researching potential colleges, creating a list of best-fit schools, selecting classes that align with your academic goals, and staying on top of every admissions-related deadline. While having good grades and strong standardized test scores are advantages during the admissions process, high school students won't be able to capitalize on them without an understanding of the college planning essentials. Another part of college planning is navigating the financial aid process, which is a critical component of the academic journey for most college students. College planning is important because it helps you prepare for college and learn how to better navigate crucial decisions in the future. Some components of the college application process mimic what you will experience when completing job applications down the line, so it's in your best interest to get comfortable showcasing your achievements, personal growth, and future goals."

(https://www.ivywise.com/blog/college-planning-all-you-need-to-know-in-advance/#:~:text=College%20planning%20is%20a%20process,journey%20for%20most%20college%20students.)

"College planning is important because it empowers students in navigating an important decision for their future. The sooner a student is more prepared and informed, the better able they are to identify and apply to the best-fitting colleges. A holistic approach to planning can help students connect interests, talents, and skills to consideration of career paths as a way of identifying the right major and college list, thereby increasing the potential for graduating in four years."

(https://novellaprep.com/faqs/why-is-college-planning-important/#:~:text=College%20planning%20%20is%20important%20because,for%20graduating%20in%20your%20years.)

"But a little careful planning and preparation can minimize any anxiety and position you to be a stronger candidate."
(https://www.davidsongifted.org/gifted-blog/planning-ahead-for-college/#:~:text=Competition%20for%20coveted%20spots%20at%20selective%20colleges,Following%20are%20some%20year%20by%2Dyear%20guidelines%20to%20help.)

And of course, it will help you feel more confident when applying to colleges

What things should students keep track of and start researching for college applications?

- Their grades
- Their extracurriculars
- Their volunteer hours
- Their credits
- Achievements
- Careers of interest (and information about them)
- Intended major(s)
- Idea of where they want to go (location)
- Information about universities of interest
    - Majors offered
    - Financial aid
    - Social environment
    - Admission rates
- Personal goals

How can students prepare?

"How do you apply for colleges efficiently? If you can keep track of everything you need and get organized, you'll be ahead of the game. For each college you're applying to, create a real and a virtual folder for storing documents." (https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/apply-to-college/college-applications-how-to-begin)

Possible Ideas for Solutions
a) A website or app that provides students with updates about the college application process and provides them with external resources to prepare for college (sort of like an email blast except on its own platform)
b) A website or app where students can store information like grades, colleges of interest, and fields of interest to help them stay organized
c) A website or app that helps students stay on top of tasks that they need to get done and that will also provide them with reminders for upcoming deadlines in the college application process

Final decision: I'm going to make idea b (the website where students can store information and keep themselves organized) because I feel like it would be the most beneficial for students (because they have control over how they use it and what they store/ add) and because it will be more straightforward for me to code.