



UniVerse

“Mentoring with freedom and purpose”

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Meet the team

Sally

Economics '25

Hong Kong



Steve

CS '25

California



Zijian

Symsys '26

Chengdu, China



Eric

CS '24

California



Value Proposition

*College mentorship reimaged
with freedom and purpose*

Problem & solution

Our Primary User:
College Counselors

Problem you are tackling:

Counselors lack independence when choosing students they want to work with (and topics) as they often work under a centralized topic

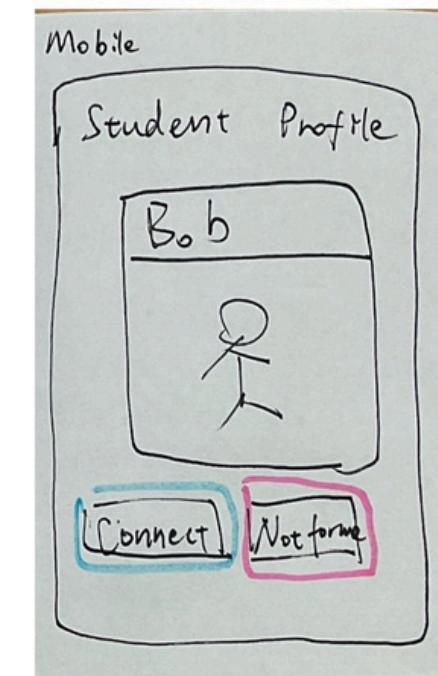
Brief synopsis of your proposed solution:
An app to allow Counselors to choose to work with small groups of students with interests and backgrounds that cater to their own knowledge.

3 Diverse Realizations

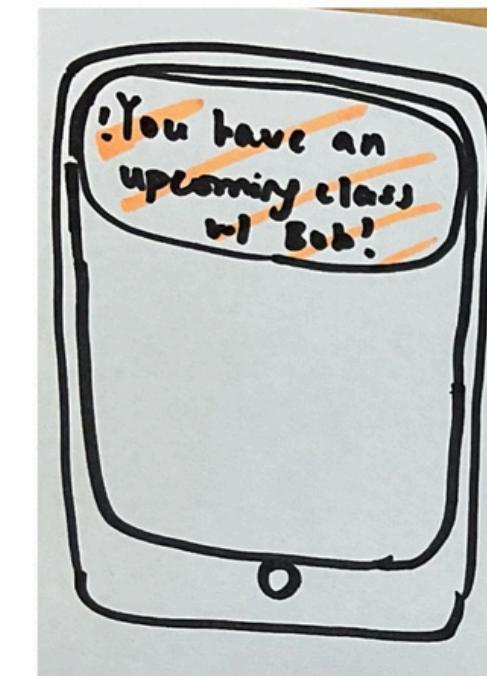
Diverse Realization #1 - Mobile



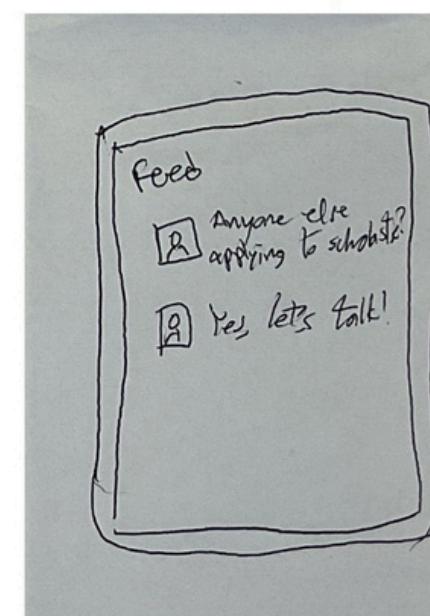
A potential explore page for the student user to find like-minded students.



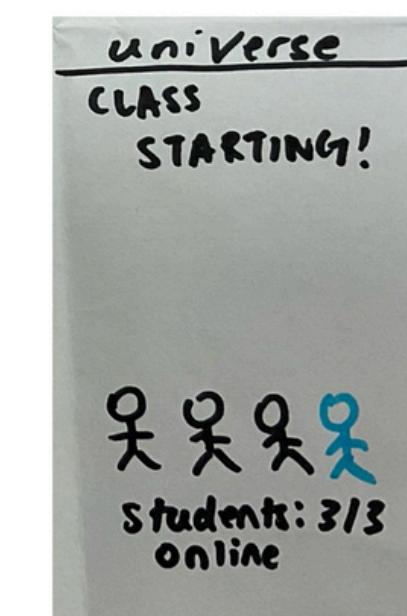
Counselors can see which students showed interest in their profiles & have autonomy in choosing to work further with some.



Pop up notification from counselor's POV.

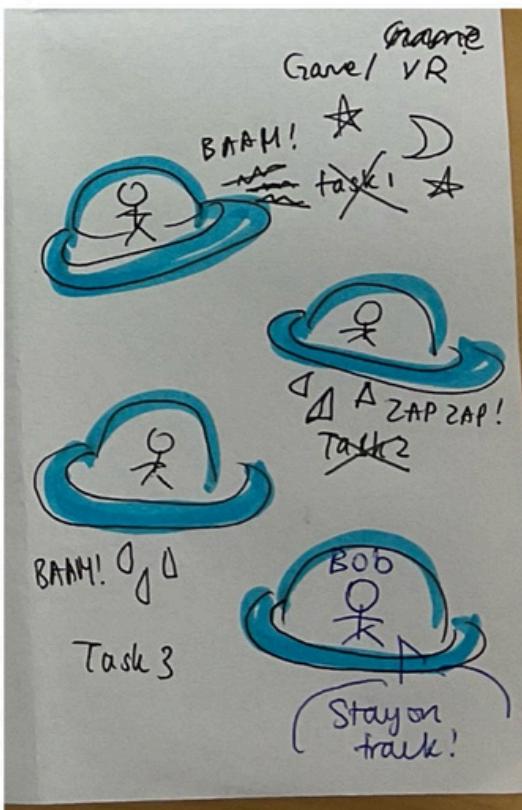


Feed from student's POV
Creating smaller communities
based on common topics.

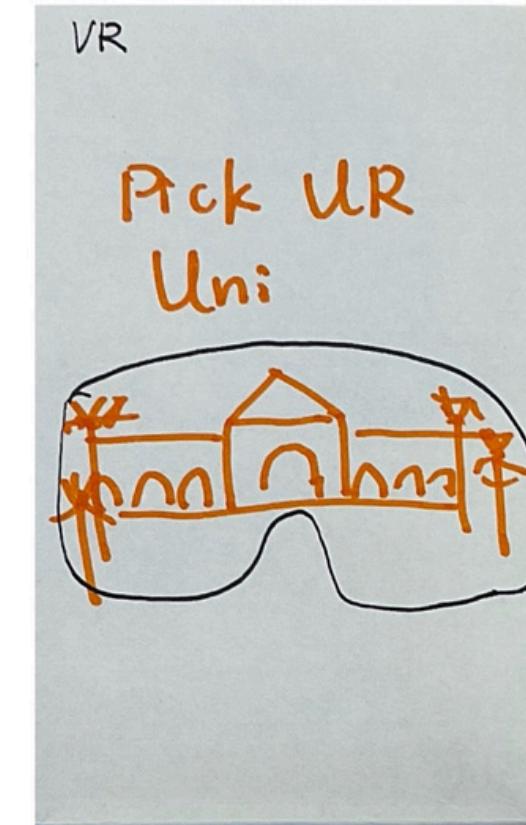


Classroom interface
where a counsellor can
see students / start class.

Diverse Realization #2 - VR



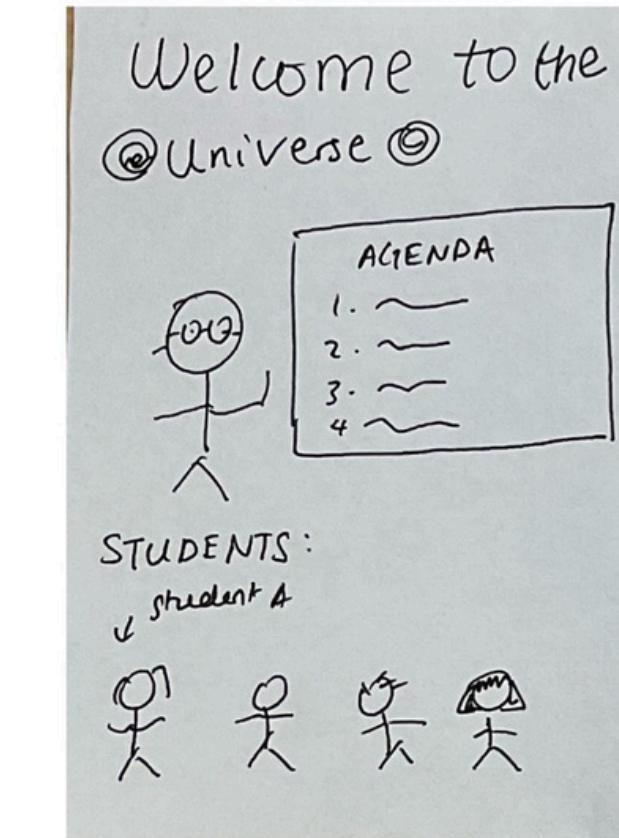
Students & counselors interacting in space, making the teaching process gamified (e.g. tasks are "targets").



Students can do a tour of colleges through VR.



Virtual environment where students can browse counselor information.

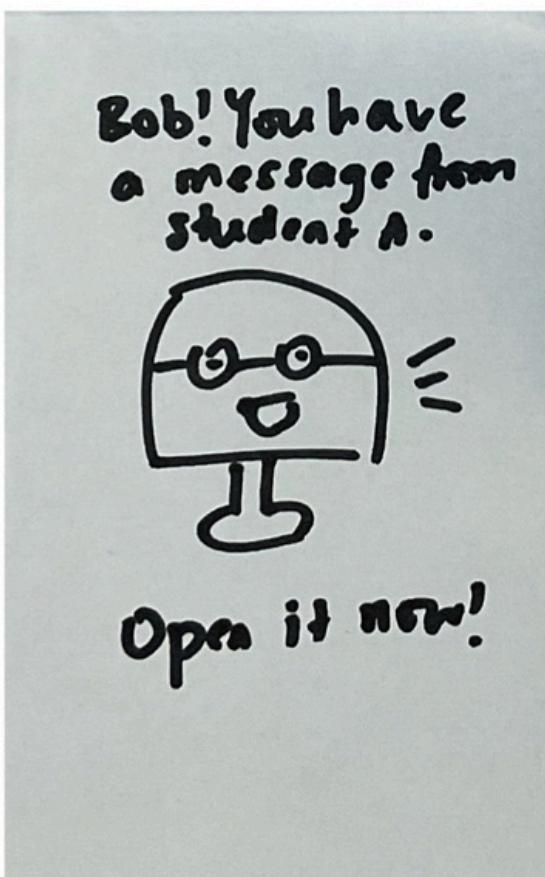


STUDENTS:
✓ student 4

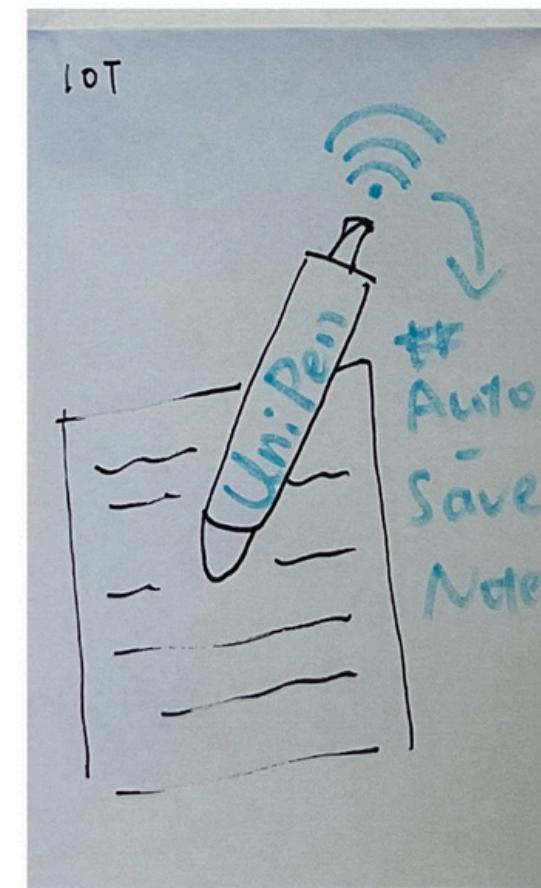


VR to simulate a normal classroom setting, but with students joining from different physical locations.

Diverse Realization #3- IoT



Lamp version of Universe bot.



Universe accessory helping students take notes.



Speaker reminding counselors/students of upcoming classes & tasks.

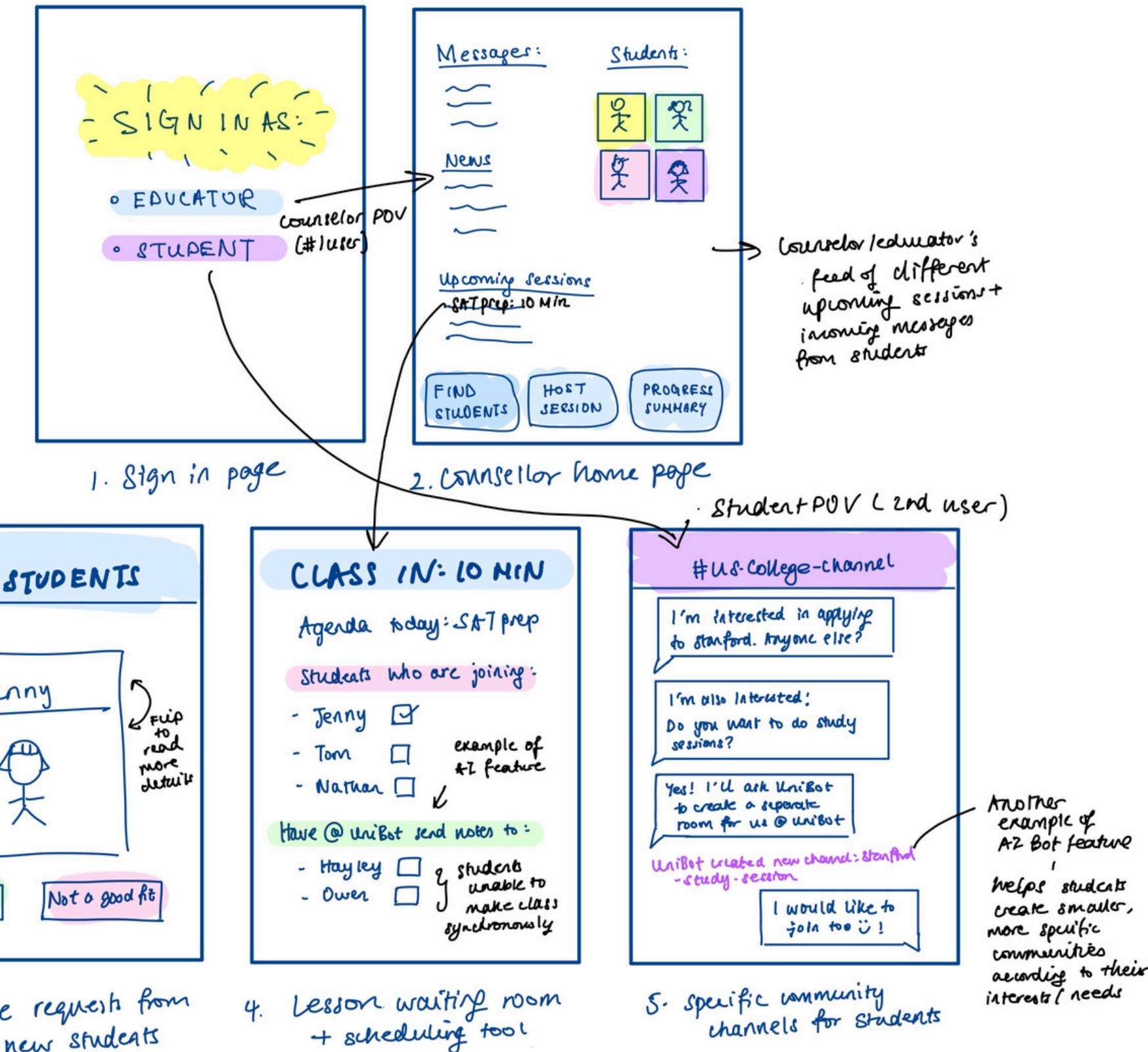


Physical robot doing lesson recap.

Top 2 Realizations

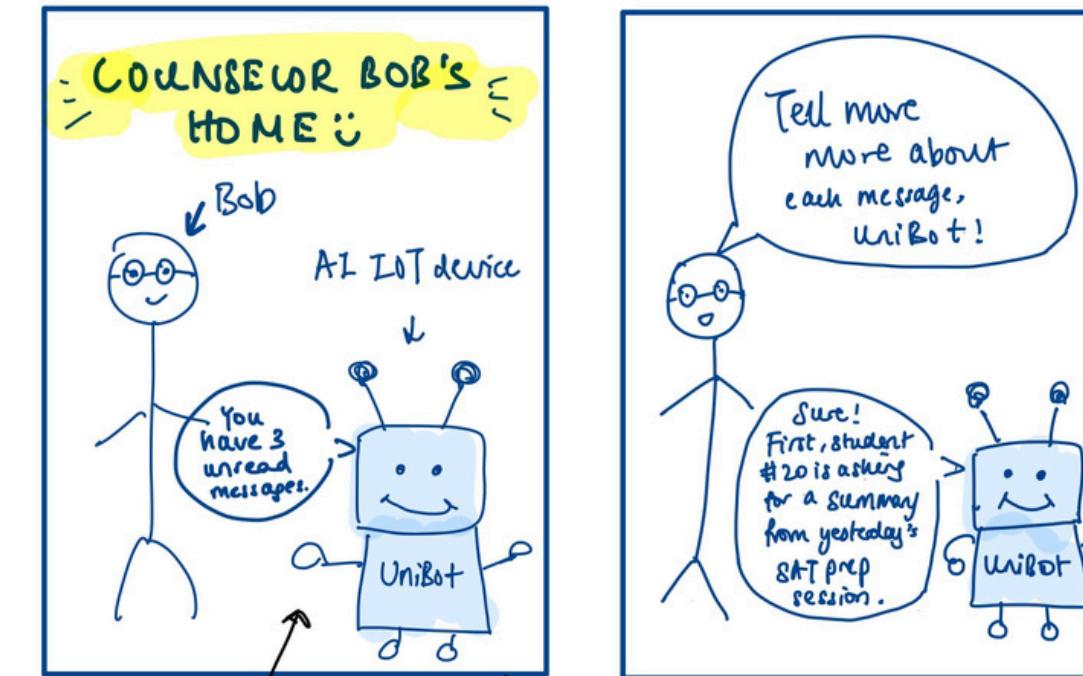
Top Realization #1 - Mobile

MOBILE



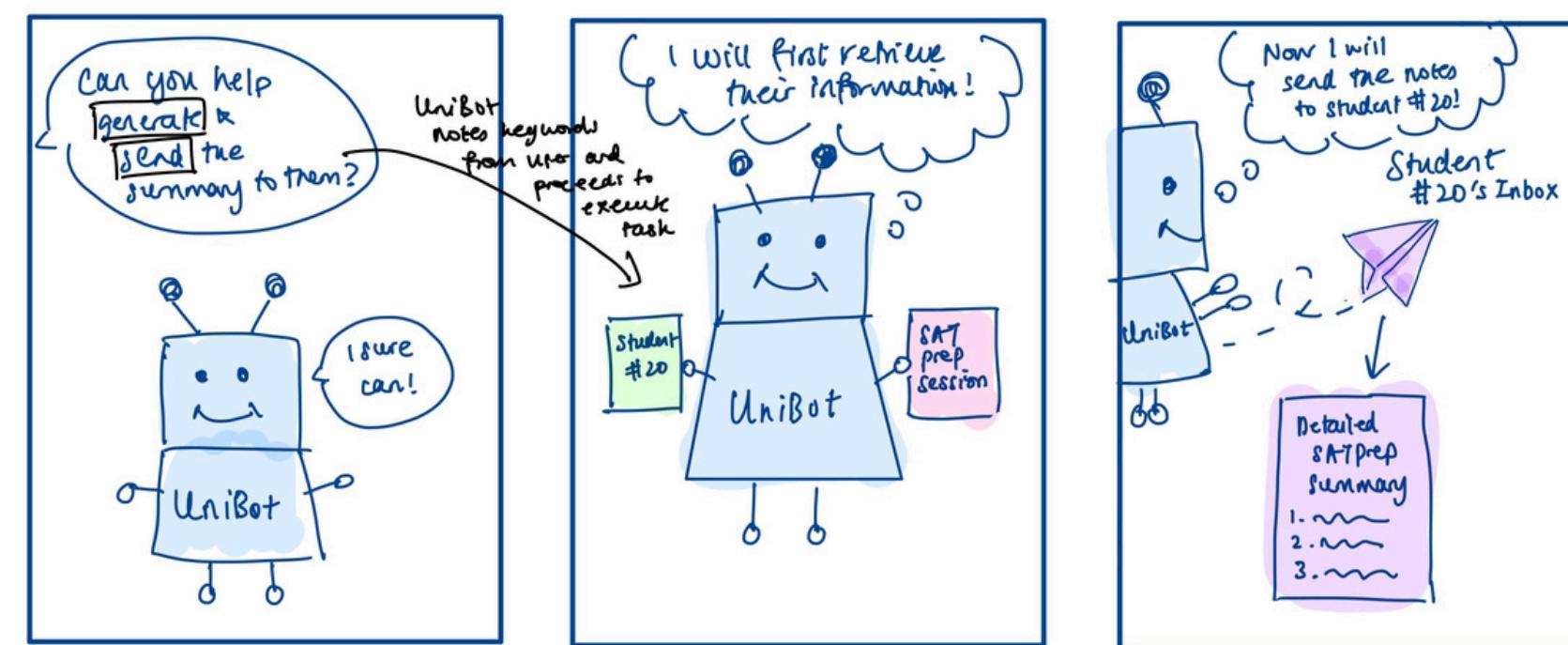
Top Realization #2 - IoT

IoT
==>



Physical IoT that user can turn on to chat to.

Counselor interacts with UniBot, asking him to expand on messages.



Because UniBot has access to past lessons & the user's students, can automate tasks like notes generation

Pros and Cons:

IOT

PROS:	CONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MORE ENGAGING• PROVIDES MORE USEFUL DATA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• REQUIRES DEVICES MANY PEOPLE MAY NOT HAVE

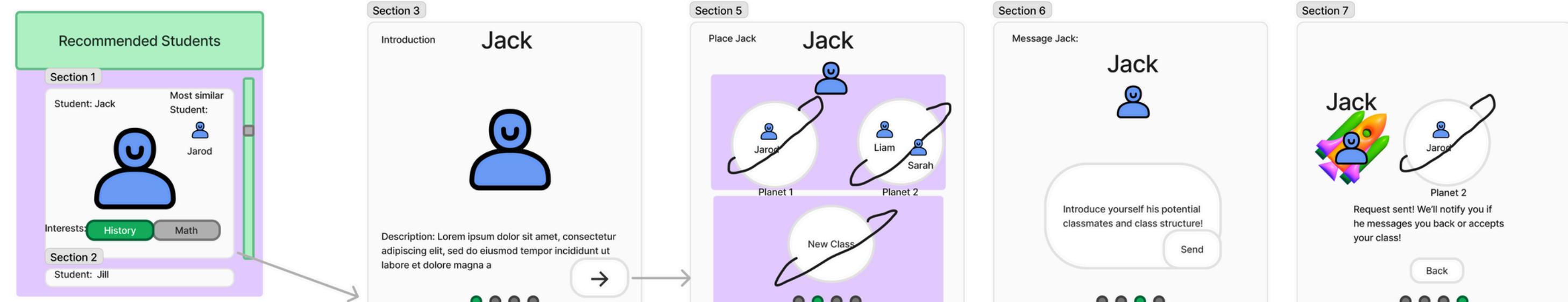
MOBILE

PROS:	CONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EASY TO NAVIGATE• SIMPLE INTERFACE• INTUITIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MORE WORK TO ACCESS

Task Flows

Simple Task Flow

Simple Task: Find students who they want to work with/with similar interests



As a counselor, you can go to an explore page and see potential new students to work with.

You can click on the profile to learn more about the student's background.

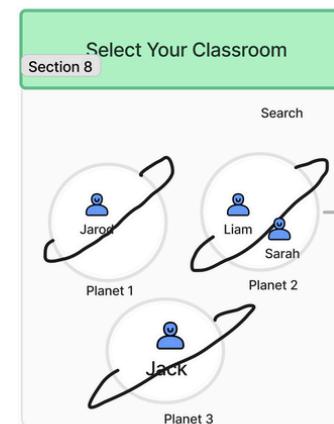
You want to work with this student, and you tentatively add them to a workspace ("Planet") that best suits their current needs.

You give a short pitch to the student to why they should work with you.

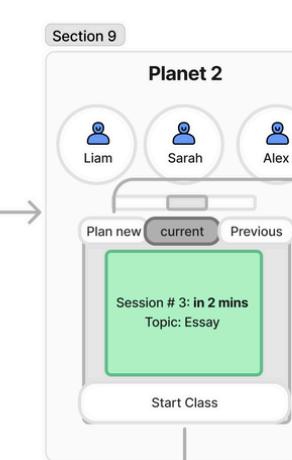
The message is sent and you will receive a message later about if the student accepts/rejects your offer.

Medium Task Flow

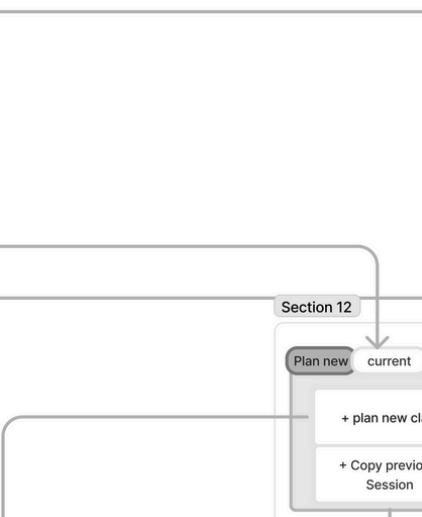
Medium Task: Teach students who they want to work with in app environment



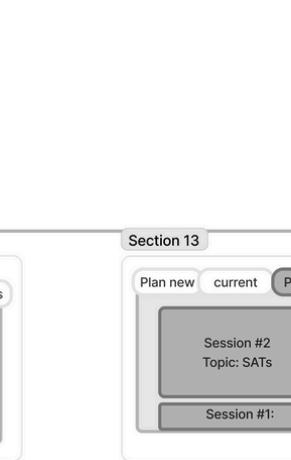
Choose a Planet you want to start a session in.



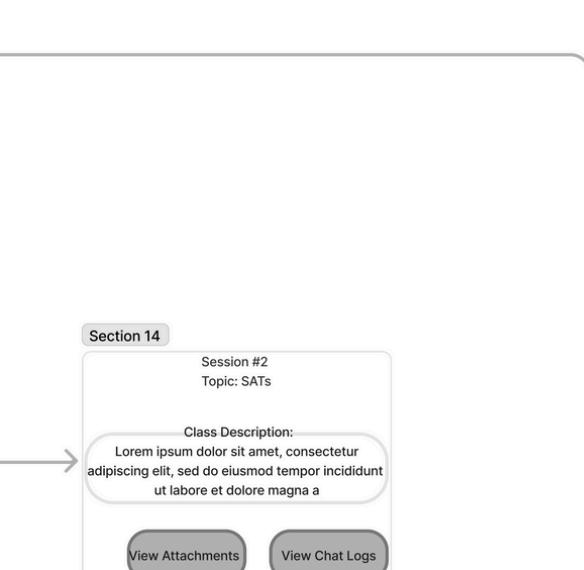
You can view the current/upcoming session.



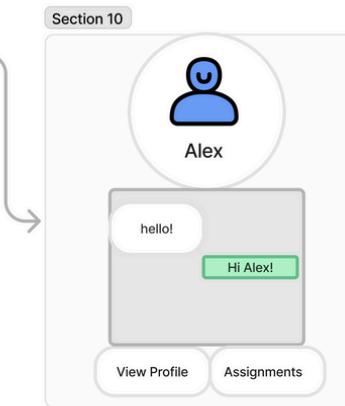
You can also plan a new session.



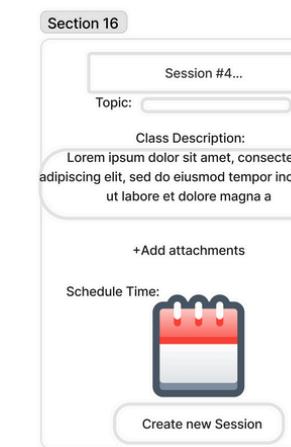
Lastly, you can also view past sessions.



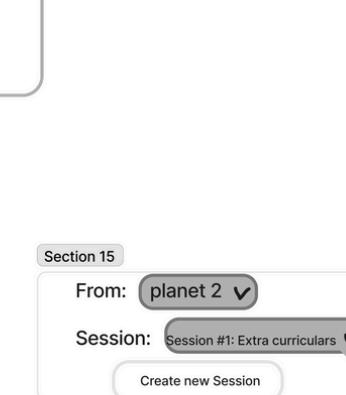
The details for past classes are shown here.



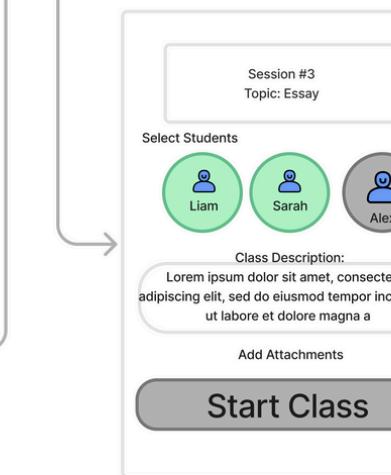
You can access individual student profiles here and chat to them one-on-one.



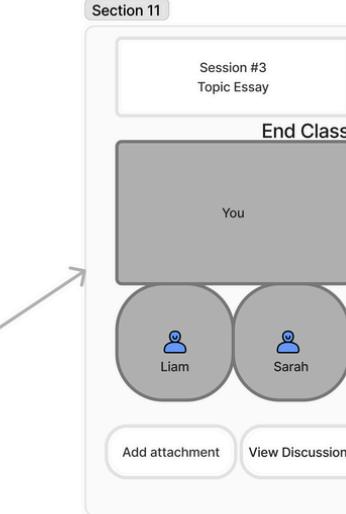
You can plan a new session from scratch.



Or you can plan a new session using template from last time.



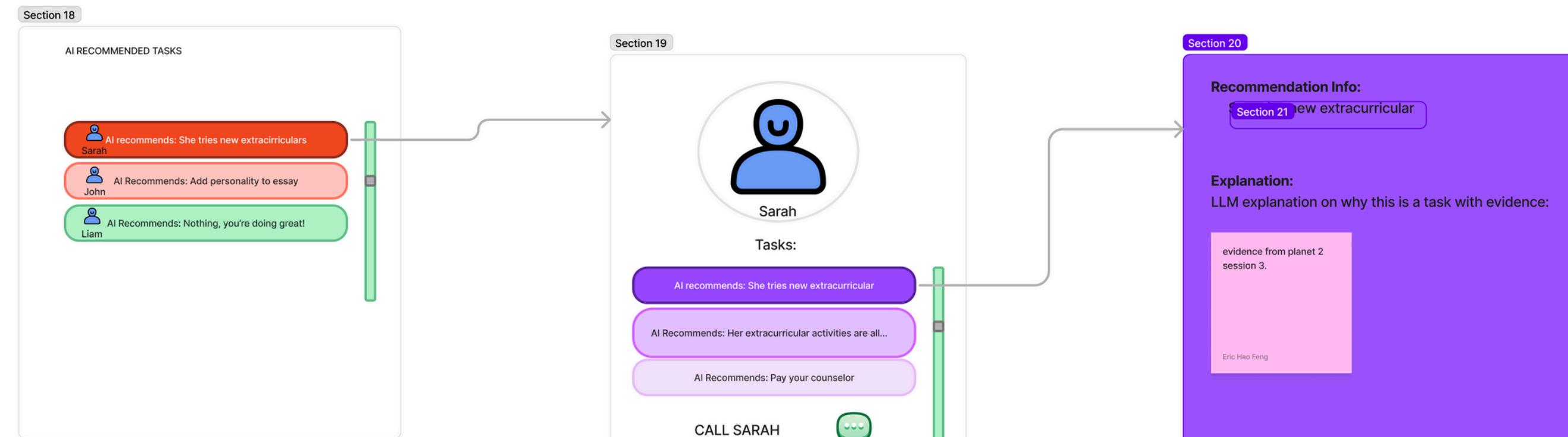
Start a session and select the students for that class.



Class/session interface.

Complex Task Flow

Complex Task: Have AI-powered tools that make managing student data and progress easier



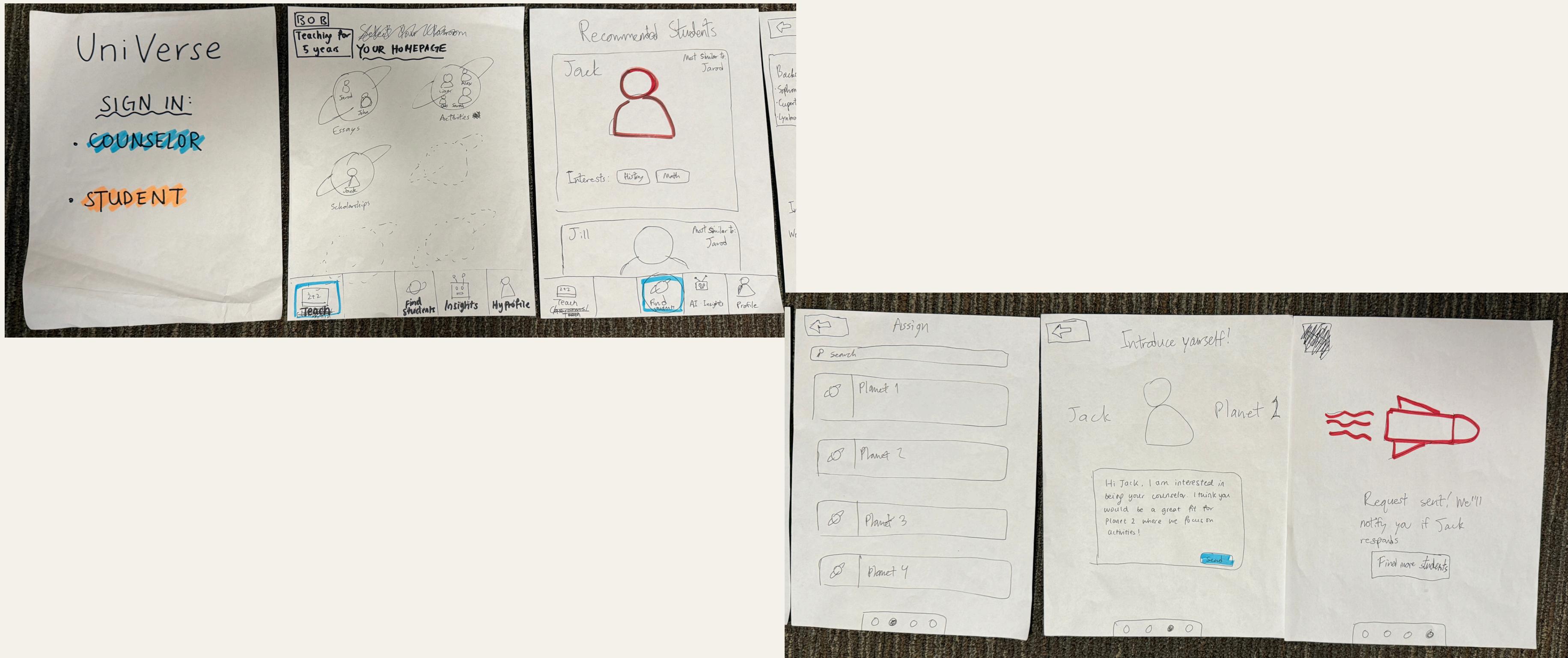
The AI recommends the most pressing tasks for students that the counselor should work students on. These tasks are unique in that they are not straightforward/logistical in nature e.g. tell Sarah to upload her assignment, but are concerned with the quality of work students are submitting.

The AI recommends the most pressing tasks that each student has.

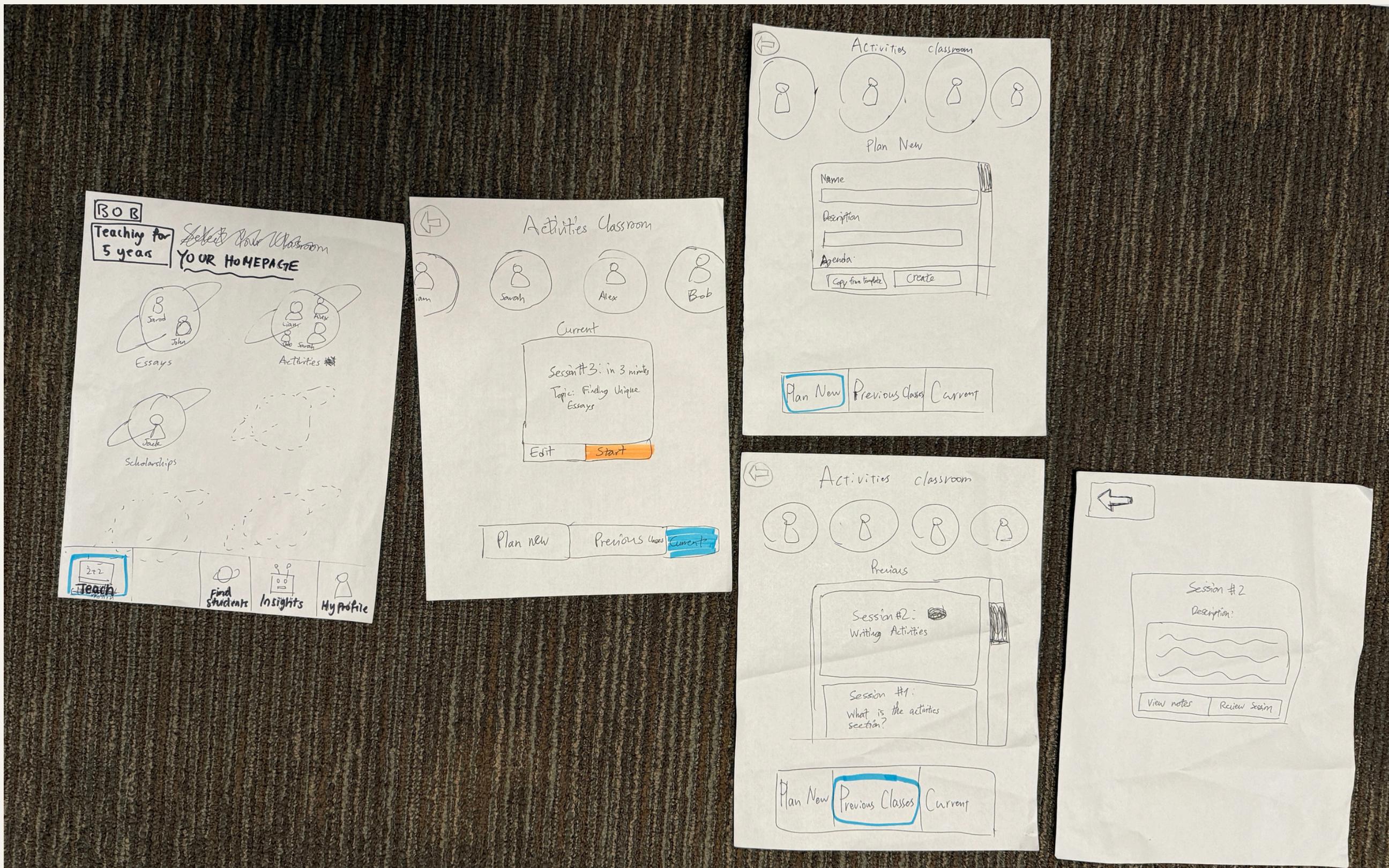
When you click into a recommendation, the bot tells you more information on why they gave that recommendation as well as provide some action items for how to approach it.

Low Fidelity Paper Prototype

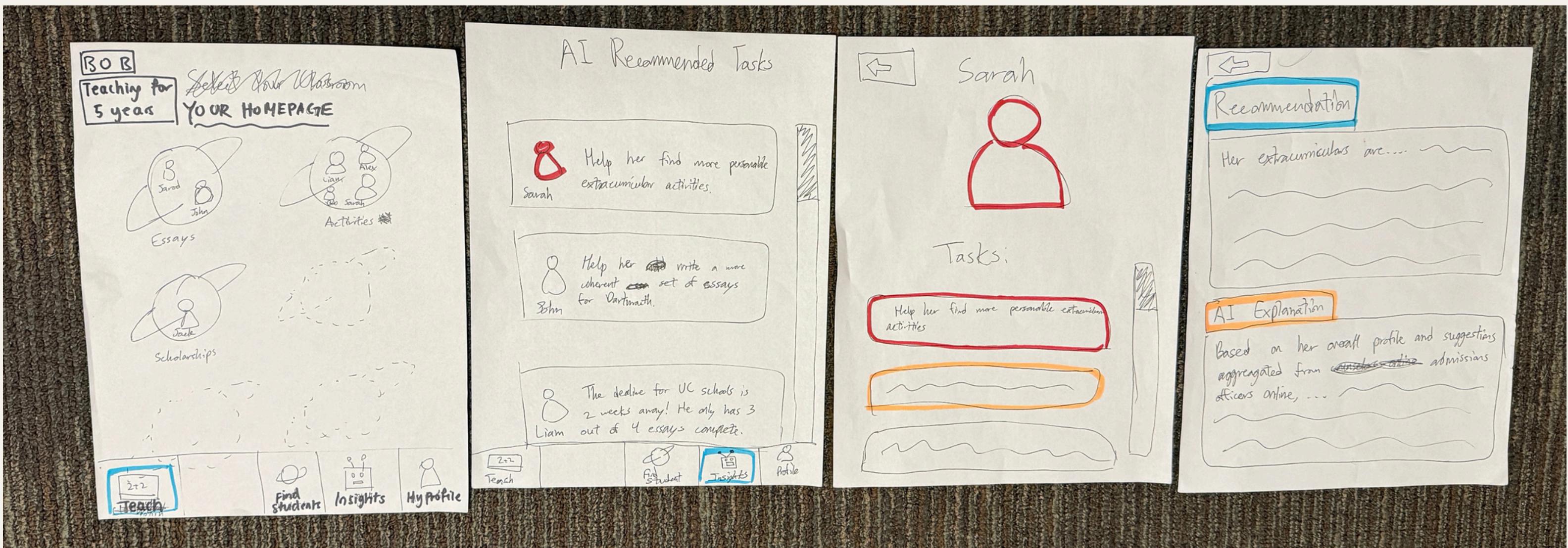
Simple Task Paper Prototype Version



Medium Task Paper Prototype Version



Complex Task Flow Paper Prototype



(Note: Although this is shorter, it's complex because it's something only a few power users might use.)

Methodology

Roles

Sally



Observer/note-taker

Steve



Computer

Zijian



Facilitator

Eric



Metrics recorder

Participants:



PARTICIPANT 1:

Demographic: Non-Stanford student
Recruitment: Direct approach
Compensation: A Starbucks Coffee



PARTICIPANT 2:

Demographic: FLI Student counselor
Recruitment: Direct approach
Compensation: n/a



PARTICIPANT 3:

Demographic: Early Career Educator
Recruitment: Mutual Friend
Compensation: A Starbucks Coffee



PARTICIPANT 4:

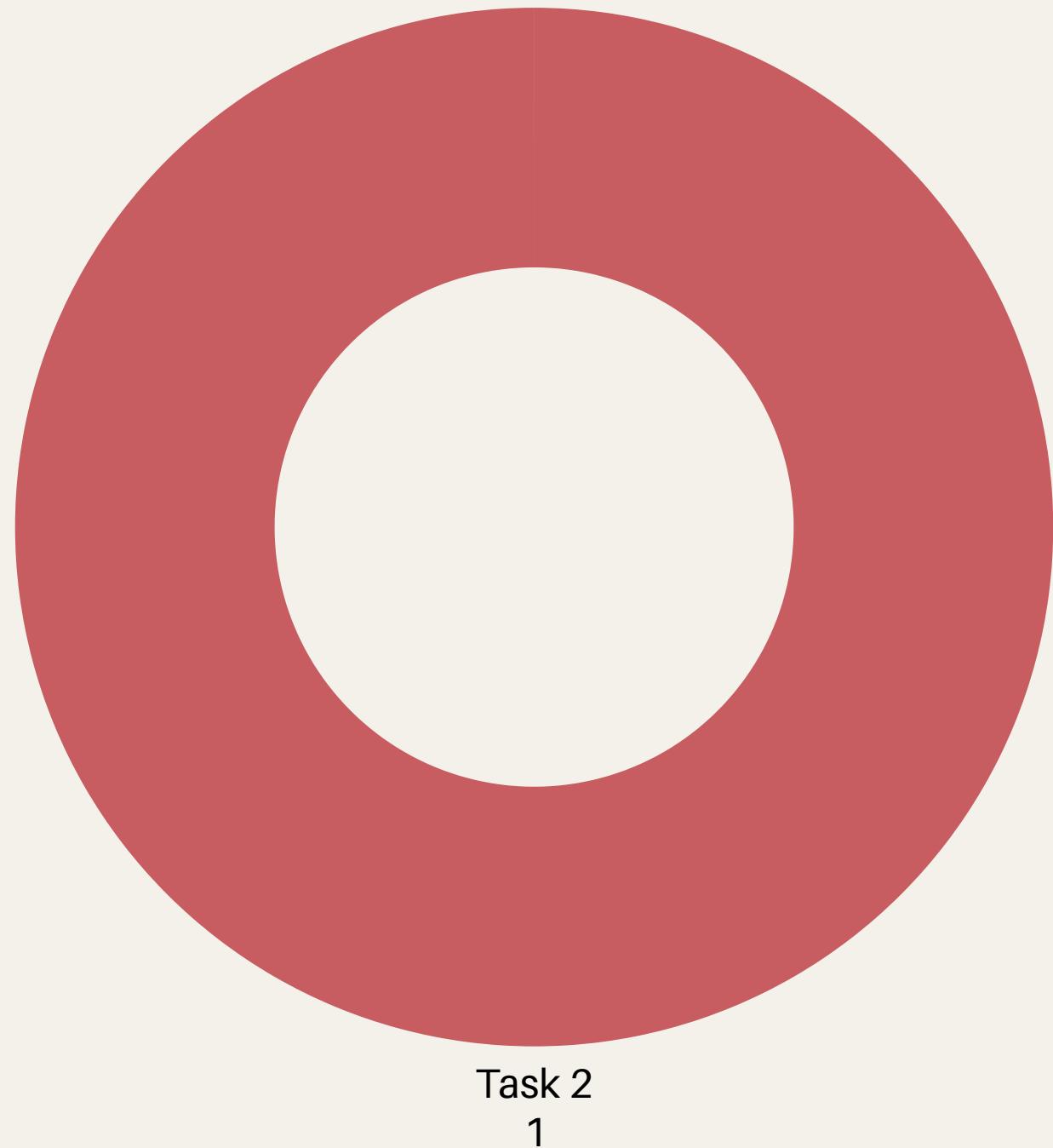
Demographic: Data Scientist
Recruitment: Direct Approach
Compensation: A Starbucks Coffee

Results

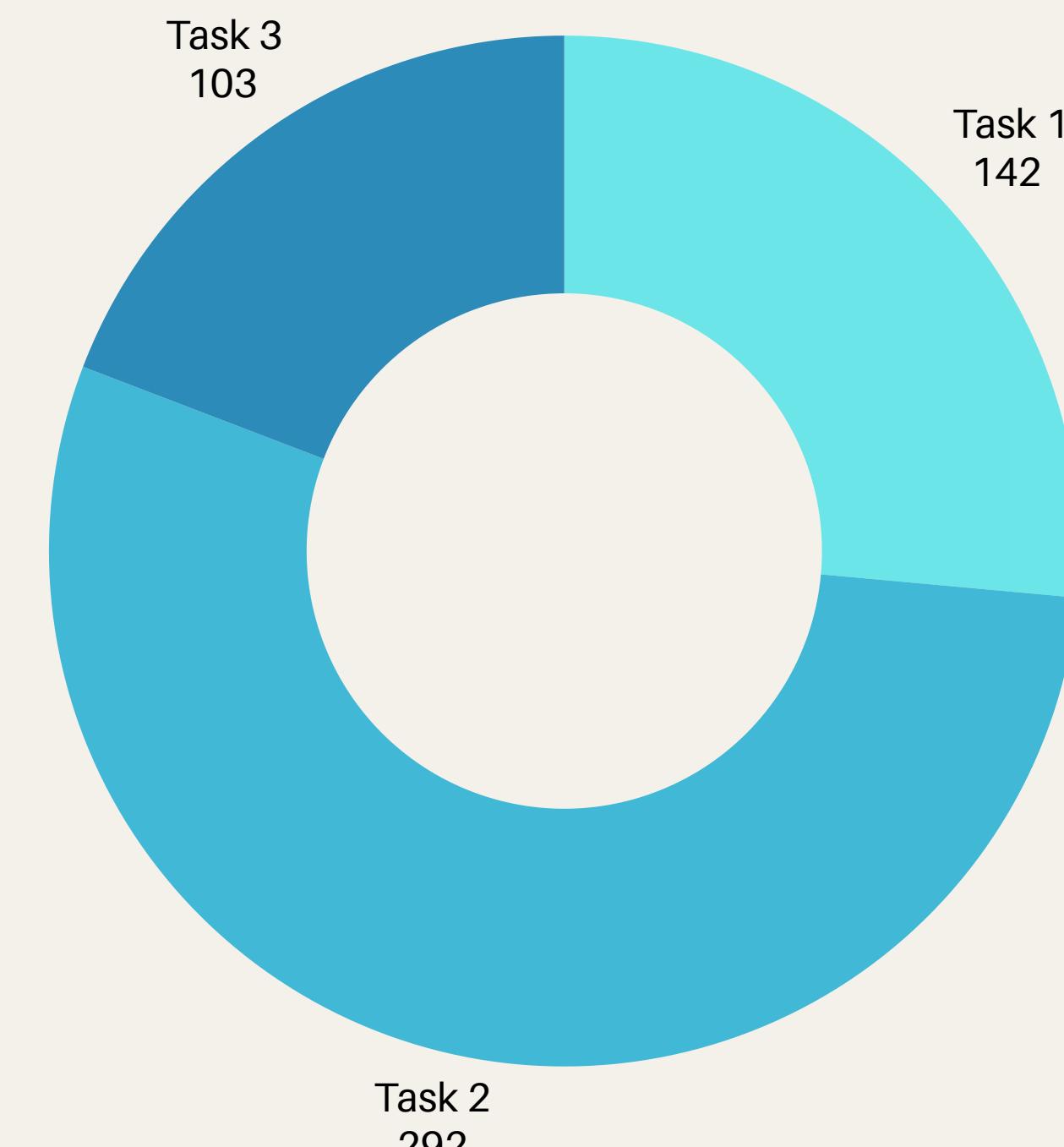
Usability goal metrics

- Amount of time spent to complete a task
- Amount of times a tester used the “back” button for each task

Participant1:



BACK PRESSES ON TASK



AMOUNT OF SECONDS ON TASK

Participant 1

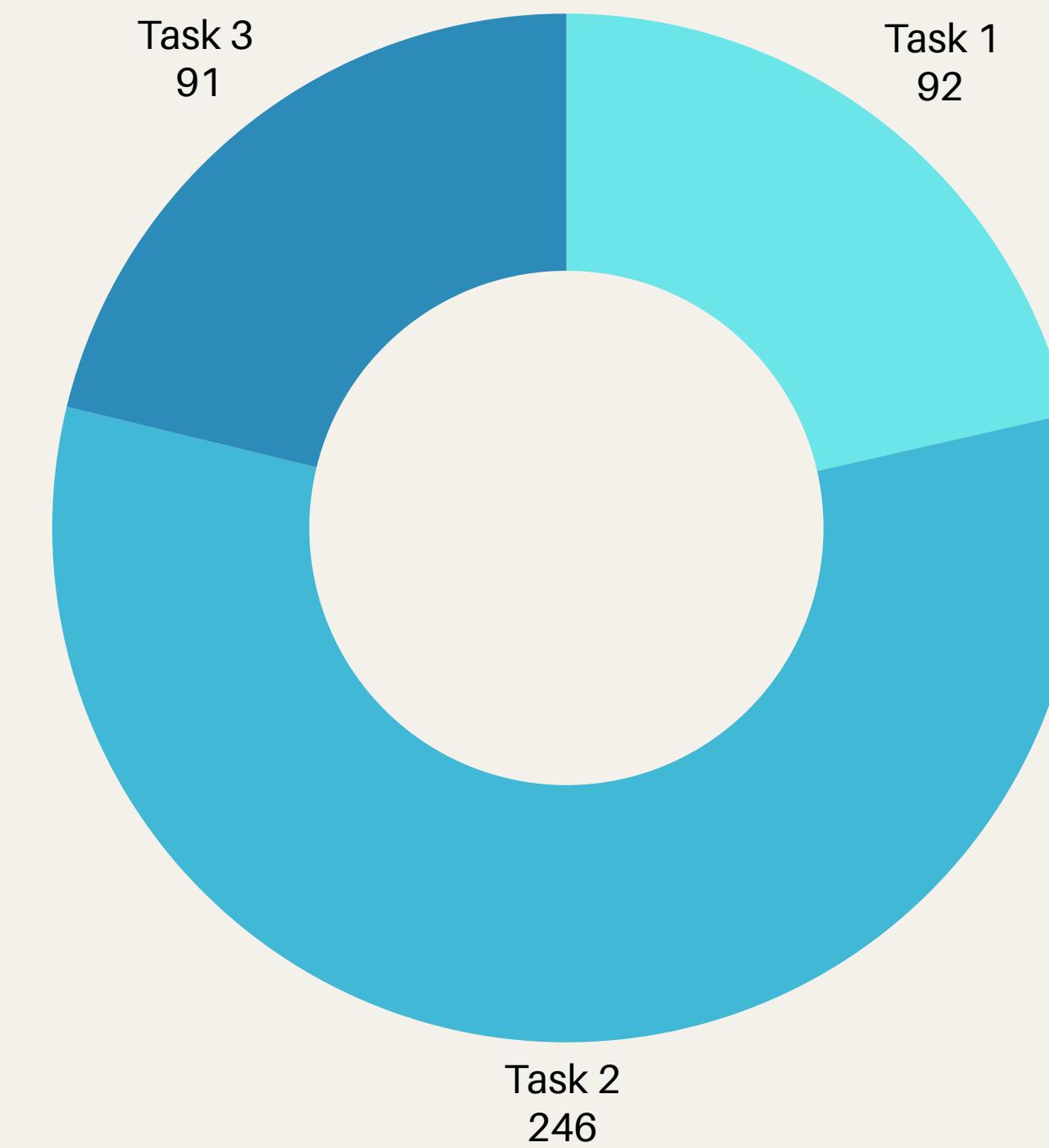


- This participant finished the testing process very smoothly without making many mistakes.
- “The concept of a planet is a bit confusing”
- “I don’t really understand what are the previous session information used for.”

Participant 2:



BACK PRESSES ON TASK



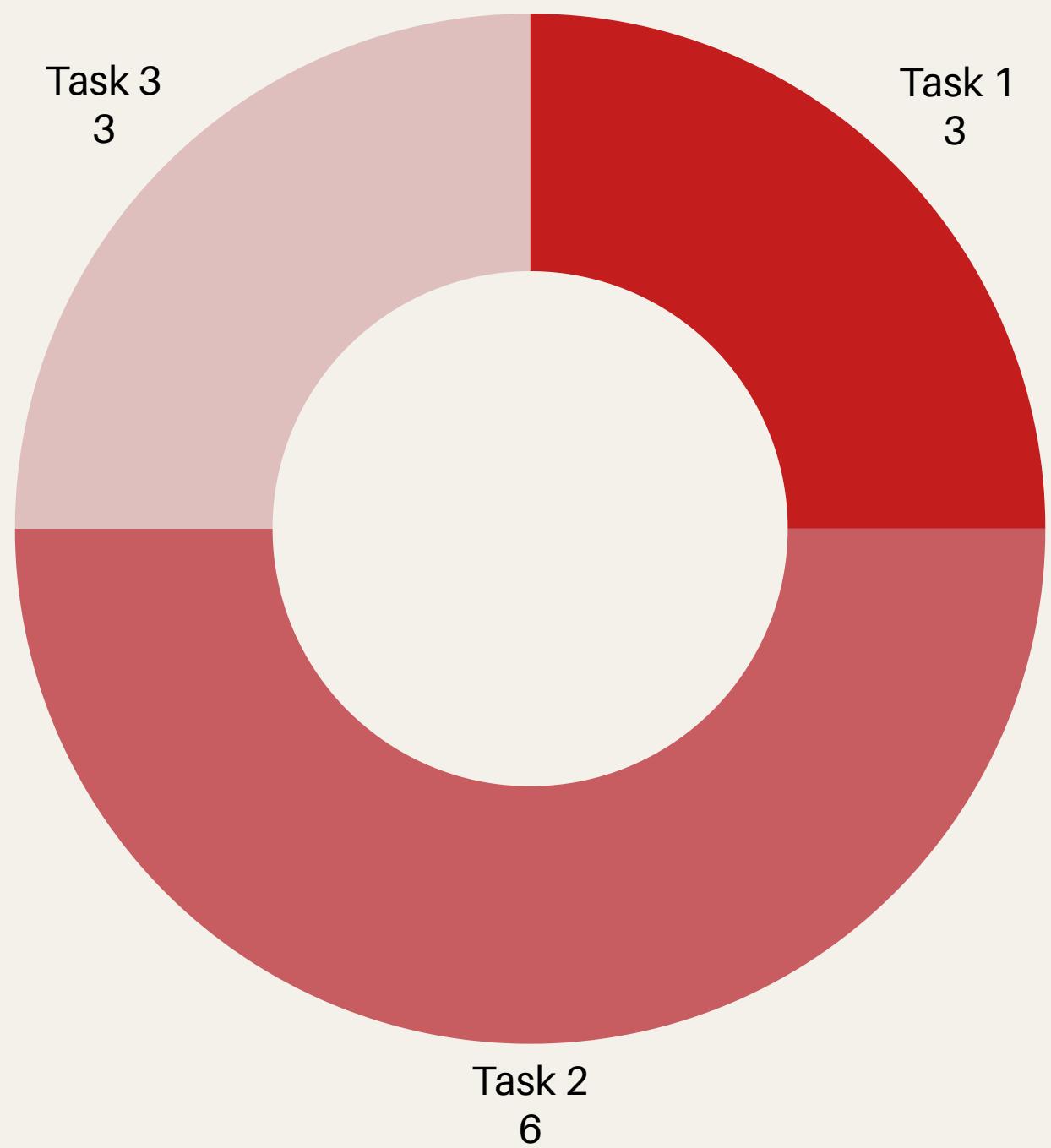
AMOUNT OF SECONDS ON TASK

Participant 2

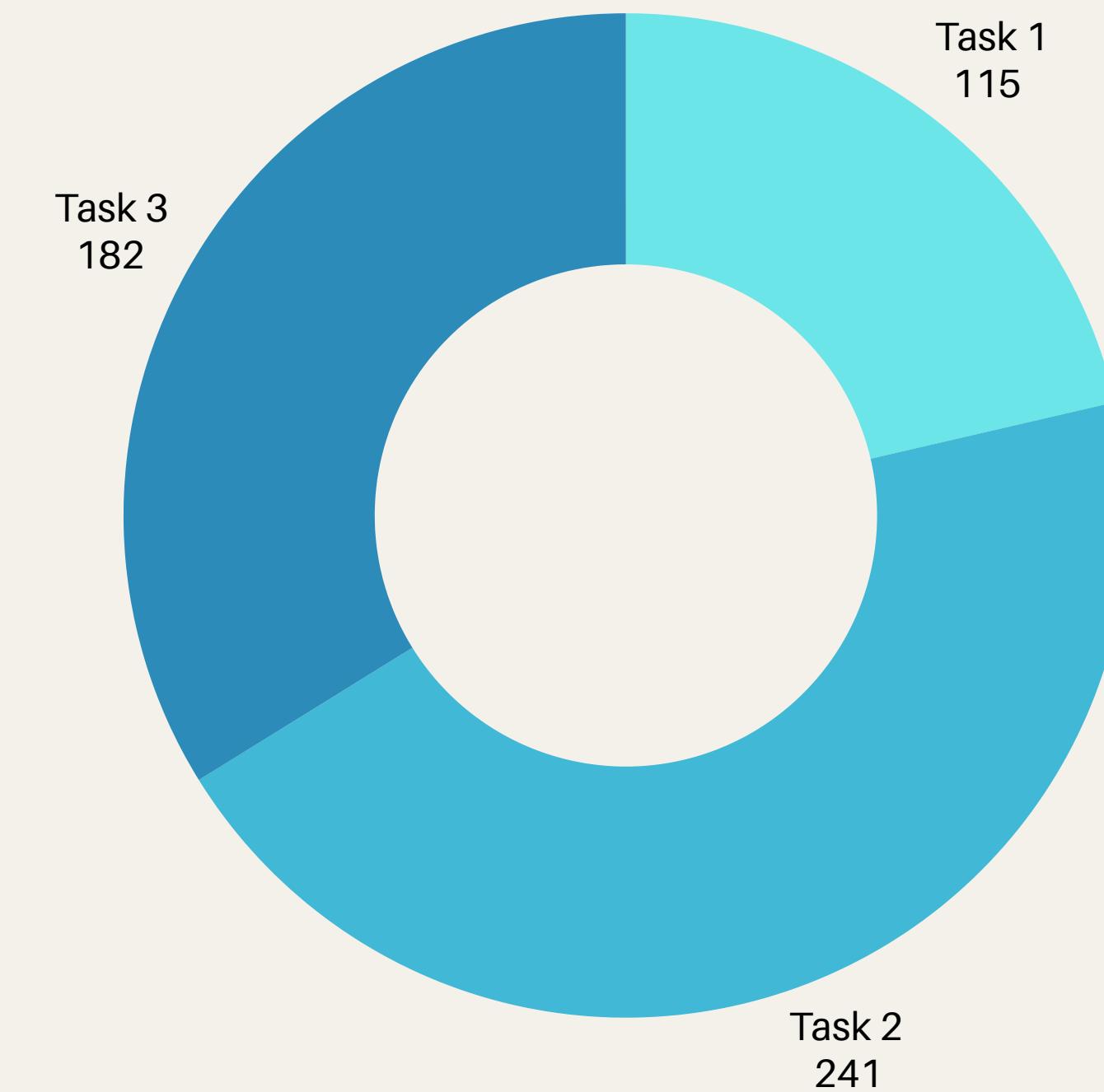


- Understood the simple task easily.
- More sensitive to text than visuals (icons/highlights)
- “I wish there are error messages when I click on the wrong things.”
- Was confused about the concept of assigning students to a planet.

Participant 3:



BACK PRESSES ON TASK



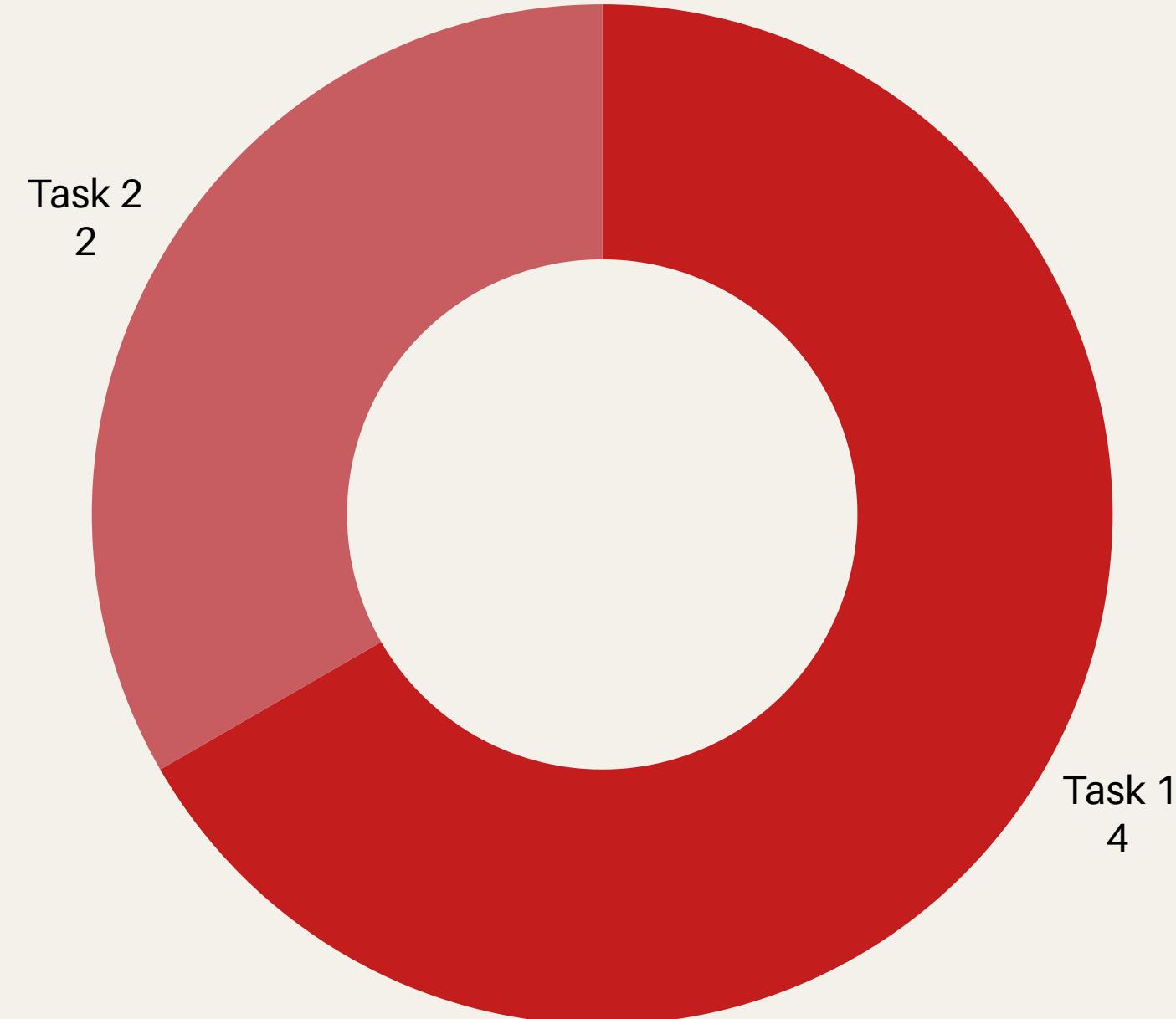
AMOUNT OF SECONDS ON TASK

Participant 3

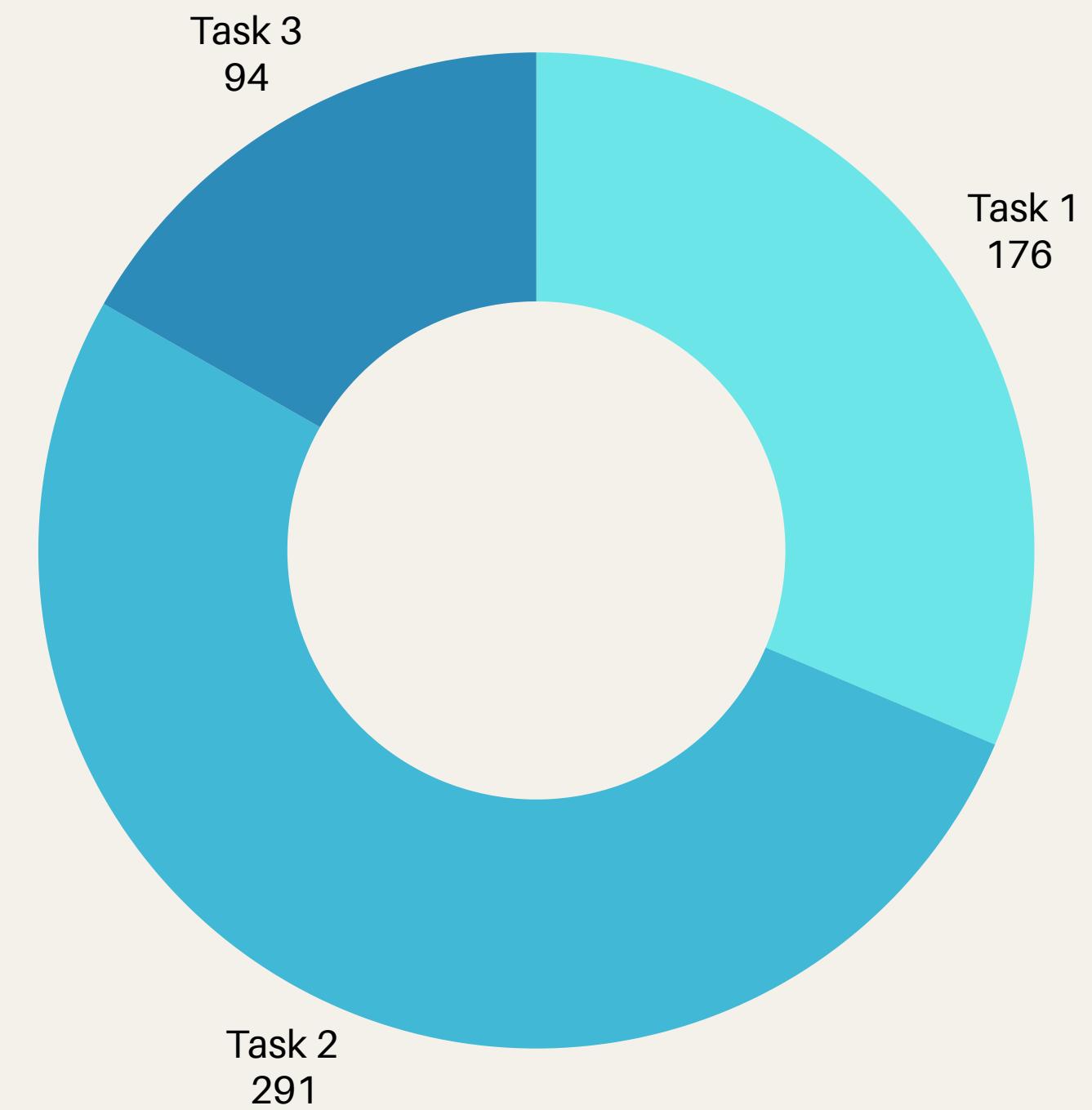


- Was a bit confused with finding students in the simple tasks, but eventually achieved the task after some prompting
- For the medium task, asked “what does recommended students mean?”
 - Associated it with recommendation letters
- For the complex task, asked “what is the source of AI insights?”

participant 4:



BACK PRESSES ON TASK



AMOUNT OF SECONDS ON TASK

Participant 4



- Due to having worked professionally for a couple of years in the Bay Area, was familiar with the prototyping phase and achieved all tasks with relative ease
- For the simple task, did not understand that the homepage classes consisted of students already connected to the counselor + wanted to "save" students
- Wanted to know more about the source of templates in the medium task
- Wanted the complex task to also include actionable items, not just insights

Discussion

Intended Changes

- Some way to introduce app to user before navigating the different tasks
- Change homepage to “find students”, not “teach” as that is our simple task
- Refer to “classrooms” instead of “planets” to be more intuitive
- Have consistent terminology across frames e.g. don’t use “tasks”, only “insights”
- Let users know more about where certain implementation come from (explain how they work briefly) e.g. templates, AI recommendations

Intended Changes

- Have the navigation bar always present at the bottom of the screen for users' convenience.
- Remove icons/pressable not relevant to the current task (such as the student icons when creating new sessions).
- Make the AI assistance have more actionable functions instead of pure text analysis

Thank you

Appendix

PROS/CONS TABLE:

	Pros	Cons
Mobile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy to navigate - On mobile device, so syncs with application like Google Drive and Calendar - Simple interface for learning and quickly finding a student - Offers multiple tools that work together seamlessly, like the to-do list tracker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires manual uploading and requesting of information - Requires more work on the student's side - Requires updating with iOS and other mobile OS systems
IoT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Live user interactions - provides more usable data - more engaging interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires physical presence of object - Not practical for use during meetings - Limited user interface, mostly up to the bot to determine what the student wants - Doesn't offer much utility as a physical device, and much of it can be migrated to a virtual platform

FULL TESTING NOTES (Doc added to drive)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KGOHknh7rPLcNxSzc9PuQz5bHM9QIPTnOgXm-vKRrlA/edit?usp=drive_link

SCRIPTS FOR TESTING (Doc added to drive)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Uu8yzQNMfMcvyi95mRNQeT99zOsN3D7FjXo2iZMV6yA/edit?usp=drive_link