Independent Evaluations

1st Expert Evaluation

Heuristic	Rating (1-5)	Violation Description	Suggested Improvement
Visibility of system status	3	The coffee mug did not appear until the first break afterwards it started appearing.	Maybe there is a technical aspect that is needed to fix or improve.
Match between system and real world	5	None	For users who do not know what a Pomodoro method is, letting them know what it is might be helpful but it is not urgent or necessary.
User control and freedom	5	None	None
Consistency and standards	4	Consistent with Industry standards but might need clarification.	It is easy to follow and understand, for someone who knows what Pomodoro means, it is logical what a study time etc…means but if someone does not know what Pomodoro means, it could be useful to add information.
Error prevention	3	There aren't many dialogs on the interface letting the user know about an error. There aren't any error messages while using the extension.	More error/confirmation logs could be added to the serial port connecting website and interface when error is found.
Recognition vs. recall	5	None	None

Flexibility and efficiency of use	3	Users cannot choose the timer, although Pomodoro is generally considered 25minutes, I have found myself trying to change the timer.	Making the timer more flexible if possible.
Aesthetic and minimalist design	5	None	None
Help users recover from errors	3	The troubleshooting part in the manual is very helpful although there are some errors that are not on there but with their application description to FocusBrowse, one can understand if they have sites or not when removing/adding sites	Same as Error Prevention
Help and documentation	4	The user manual is not very helpful to someone who is not tech-savvy or has worked with GitHub before. Steps could be written out in order to understand, as well as choosing a Serial Port. The user will not be aware (with the fully built system) that they will be choosing the Arduino written one.	The user manual is focused on the tasks in an ordered manner but adding more detail to the first part will be more beneficial for some users.

Notes:
When a site is removed from the focus sites and there are none any more. Some sites get a "Focus on study sites" warning even though there are no study sites and it gets annoying because you either have to add the site you are currently at or remove the extension

2nd expert evaluation

Heuristic	Rating (1–5)	Violation Description	Suggested Improvement
Visibility of system status	4	The system provides limited feedback when connecting the serial port	Improve visibility of feedback during serial connection and ensure all actions produce clear, immediate visual confirmation
Match between system and real world	5	No major violations observed. The interface uses clear, familiar visual metaphors and language consistent with users' expectations	Maintain this strong alignment between real world terminology and interface design in future iterations
User control and freedom	5	No violations detected. The system allows users to operate comfortably within defined durations that suit familiar productivity routines	Continue supporting user autonomy while exploring optional customization for timing flexibility
Consistency and standards	5	No inconsistencies identified. All actions and terms follow established interface conventions, minimizing confusion	Maintain consistent design standards across future updates to maintain predictability
Error prevention	3	Users are prone to errors that require consulting the user manual. In some cases, the manual itself lacks sufficient clarity to solve the issue	Introduce on screen guidance or hints to prevent common errors and improve documentation to address high cost mistakes more effectively
Recognition vs. recall	4	Certain elements (the coffee mug indicator) appeared only after specific triggers, reducing discoverability and requiring users to remember contextual cues	Make frequently used elements persistently visible or remove confusing visual items to simplify recognition and reduce memory load

Flexibility and efficiency of use	4	Limited shortcuts or advanced controls are available. While expert users can access the GitHub repository for extended functions, this may be unclear to novices	Provide clearer access to shortcuts and advanced options and include contextual explanations or tooltips for novice users
Aesthetic and minimalist design	5	The design is generally clean and minimal, however, the lighting intensity can be overly bright, becoming visually distracting during use	Reduce lighting brightness or allow users to adjust intensity for better comfort and focus
Help users recover from errors	3	Error messages appear when needed but are vague and use technical language that is difficult for general users to interpret	Write error messages in clear, user friendly language and include actionable steps or direct solutions for recovery
Help and documentation	4	On screen instructions are clear and well written, but the installation process lacks sufficient step by step guidance	Expand installation documentation with explicit, numbered steps and visual aids to assist new users through setup