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## **Project Description**

Our project, Exam-a-cutioner, is studying app targeted to college students that aims to decrease procrastination through quizzes, reminders, and other methods shown to limit procrastination. What makes this application different, is that it is based on the principles illustrated in the curve of forgetting and the learning curve. The curve of forgetting decreases exponentially after a lecture or study session, meaning that in that time, it's inevitable that we forget everything we learned. Oppositely, the learning curve explains that we retain new information better if you start studying slowly in the beginning then as you get closer to the exam you increase the amount of study sessions. When the user begins with the app, they will input information as they learn it in class then as the exam gets closer and closer, the app will use the information to generate quizzes and reminders to review. These quizzes go over important points marked by the user and refreshes them on small details that they may need to go over. It's a good way to not only study up on the material as you take it for the class, but also figure out where your weak points are and studying them further to improve. Everything in this app would be retroactive, so it jumps around on material that the user has taken notes on throughout the semester, and keeps it more concise than traditional note taking methods. This method primarily focuses on review of material from past lectures, as well as that of the most recent lecture, so students are more likely to retain all of the material they have learned in the past semester.

**Meeting Schedule:** Sunday afternoons

**Group chat and Documentation:** imessage and shared google drive folder

## **1 on 1 Interviews**

Our goal with this research method is to be able analyze how most students approach studying and note taking so we can design our application to fit students needs. These interviews will allow us to evaluate how much current students would benefit from this type of application and if it would fit in with their current routine and schedule. This data is important to understand before moving on to the design process so we recognize what are the most significant and necessary elements in our application.

The most important part of data collection through interviews is the group of people you interview. If you were to only interview people from one group, the results may be skewed as people who are related will most likely have similar answers. In order to get accurate data we plan on interviewing students from many different majors, grades, and classes so we can have a wide range of responses.

In order to have a successful interview, you need to have questions that are easy to understand and communicate. We made our questions straightforward so our participants will not be confused and more likely to give accurate and useful responses. We purposefully wrote our questions so very few of them were open ended so that we would not get responses that could not be interpreted into useable data.

### **Interview Questions:**

- How satisfied are you with your most recent test scores?
- What is the most common format of your exams?
- How many days do you usually start studying before a test?
- What ways to do find yourself studying most often?
- What do you wish you did more of to help prepare for an exam?
- Do you think you could improve the way to study?
- Do any of your professors provide study guides or practice tests, and if they do, do you use them?
- How often do you find yourself doing something other than taking notes and listening during lectures?
- How do you take notes in lectures?
- Do you have a device you could use to take note with?
- Do you find phone reminders useful or annoying?

## General Survey

With this research method the intention is to reach a large amount of students, see how a majority of college students do on tests and how that relates to their study habits. It can also be used to gauge the user market and see if our app is something people would be interested in using.

When using surveys it's important to hit the right demographic, for instance we are looking for college aged people that are enrolled in classes. I do not think an adult that has graduated would be all too interested in our studying app and would skew our data. With our survey we also have the possibility of getting responses from other colleges, expanding our demographic from just one school's habits.

To complete these surveys Jessica and I will identify the question set we would like to ask. Then I will make a survey using qualtrics. After that survey is made we can distribute an anonymous link to students. To distribute this link we can post to university facebook pages and groups. I have a couple of friends outside of CU that would be able to share the survey with their school's facebook page as well.

### Survey Questions:

- What college do you attend?
- What year are you currently fulfilling?
- Are you satisfied with your grades?
- What methods do you use to study?
- How often do you take notes in class?
- Do you think your method of studying is effective?
- How often do you find yourself forgetting material from classes?
- Do you think your methods could use improvement?
- Would you be interested in an app that helps you study?
- If this app made quizzes and reminded you to take them how likely would it be that you followed those steps?