

Paper 3: Looking Better

INFO 498 G

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How to Look Better?



Creative Constraints

Narrate & Story

Ask questions

Collaboration

Describe

Observation

Feeling

Design Thinking

Creativity

Ways of knowing

Operationalization

Iterations

Make Statements

Constraints

Organizing Observation

Design

Compromises

Translation

Data

Ask Question

Edges

Argument

Counting

Taste

Critique

Difficulties

Intuition

Hearing

Tools

Instruction

Sense

Editing

Meta-cognition

Touch

How to Look Better?

1

Observation

2

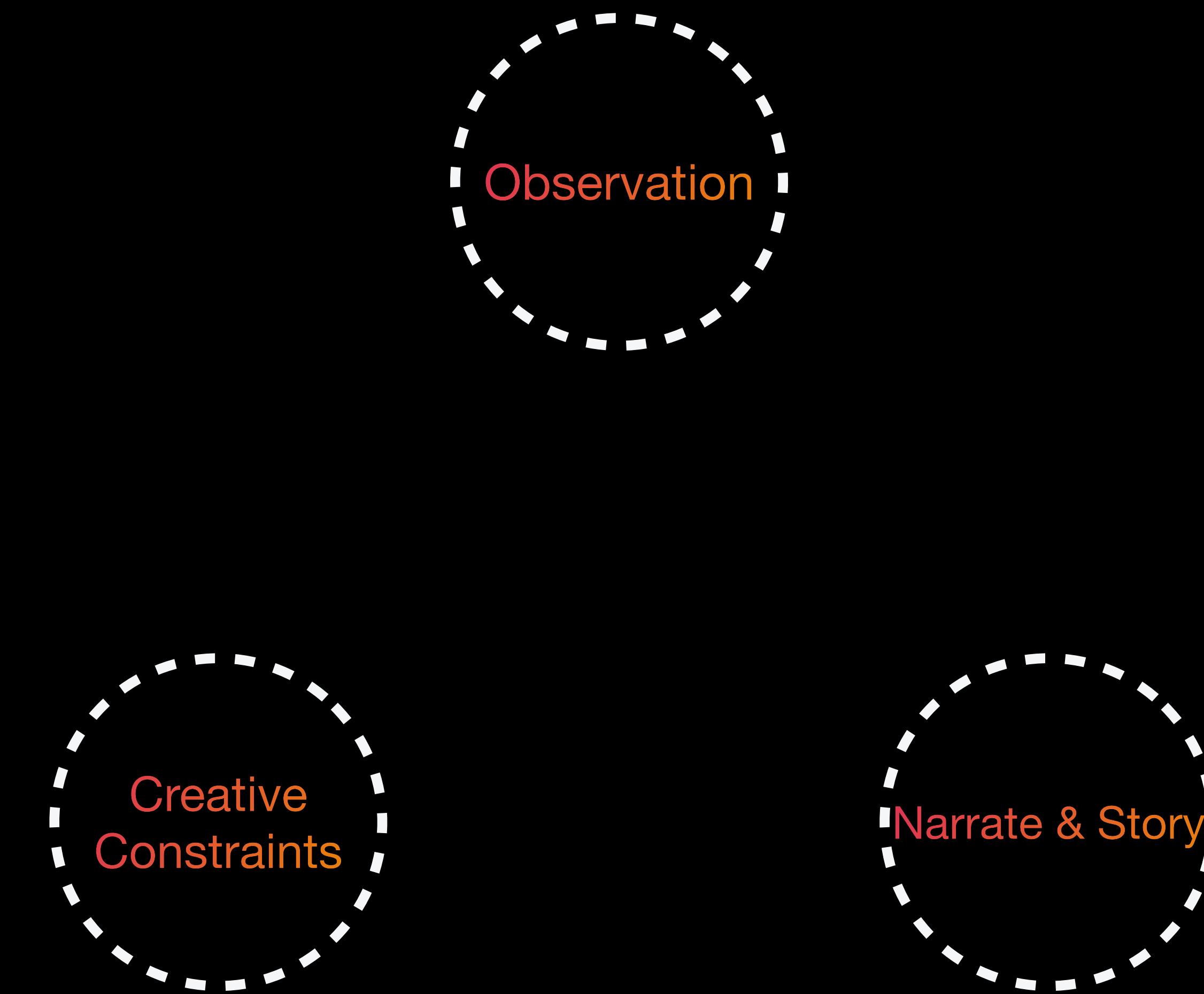
Creative Constraints

3

Narrate & Story

Why?

Generate Positive Loop
in Design Process





*Ahead, a Task Management App on iOS
For pandemic and beyond*

•**Observation**

•**Creative Constraints**

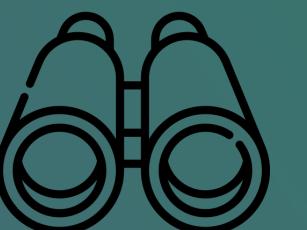
•**Narrate & Story**

Observation

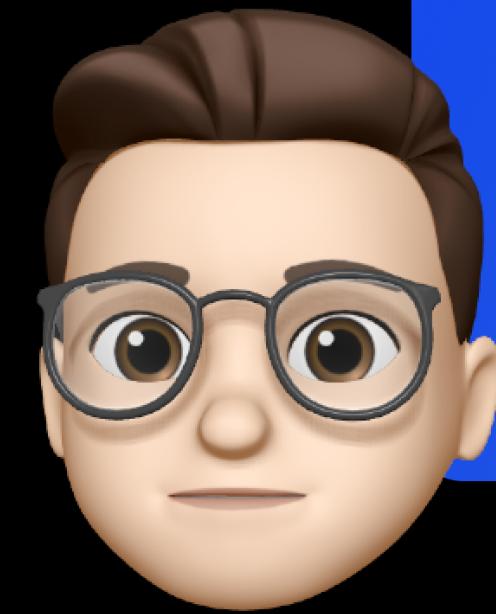
/əbzərvāSH(ə)n/

**Intentional, systematic
and active sensing and
noticing to target
objects to gain useful
information.**

- Ask the right questions.
- Pay attention to emotion, feeling and sensory information.



Pay Attention to Feeling and Emotion From Target Users



A university faculty

" Working from home always reminds me of the day in the office, where you have colleagues, managers and everyone encouraging each other all the time. But now you don't have such a **push behind your back.**"



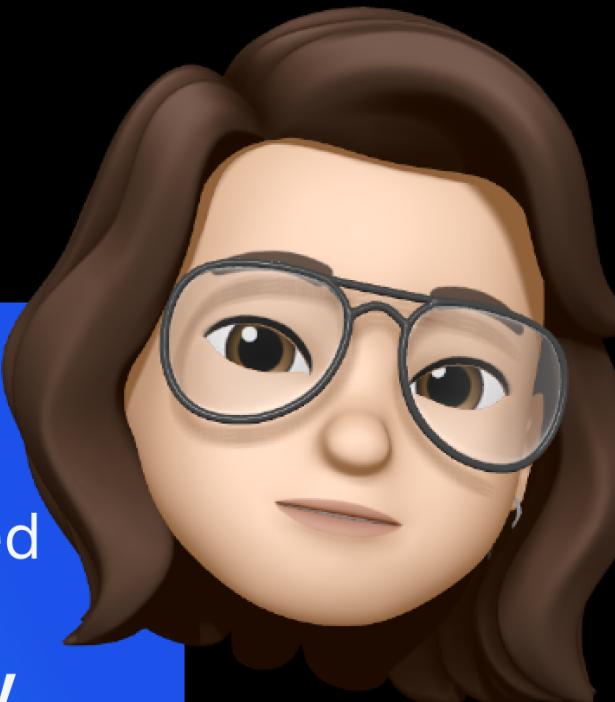
A Software Engineer
from a big company

"Now that most of the tasks can be extended beyond the deadline, ... [S]itting at the most comfortable setting and wearing pajama, you just feel slacked off for the first a few days. **Then everything get piled up towards the deadline.** You become less productive and stressful to finish all the tasks ."



A Junior student
from UW

My life is now mixed with not only tons of course work, but also my part-time job. I have to do some course work and then do the part-time ... **back and forth several times a day, which results in a pretty messy day** all the time, getting nothing done well.



A company
employee at
New York City

" Now everyone assumes you're on the slack 24/7. Tasks never get cut down, but you now have to be alerted to slack conversation all the time ... **There is just no priority in my daily work now.**"

Ask Right Questions in Ahead

“

How can we help people solve their pain of low productivity and procrastination, keep them **motivated** and **focused** while still maintain flexible yet accountable for their tasks?

Ask Right Questions in Ahead

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How can we help people solve their pain of low productivity and procrastination, keep them motivated and focused while still maintain **flexible** yet **accountable** for their tasks?

Ask Right Questions in Ahead

“

How our interfaces and interactions should look like to provide **personalized** and **contextually-aware** information?

To Theorize ...

**Observation helps understand and define
problem space and target audience**

Creative Constraints

Constraint

/kən'strānt/

the state of being checked, restricted, or compelled to avoid or perform some action.

— Merriam Webster

Creative Constraint ?

a creative constraint is specific and deals with a particular dimension or aspect of what might be possible. It enlightens tangible, useable and valuable solution.



Constraints are mutually beneficial

**Technical
constraints
define**

**Targets' constraints
offer insightful
observations**

**Creative
constraints
enlighten
decisions**

Constraints are mutually beneficial



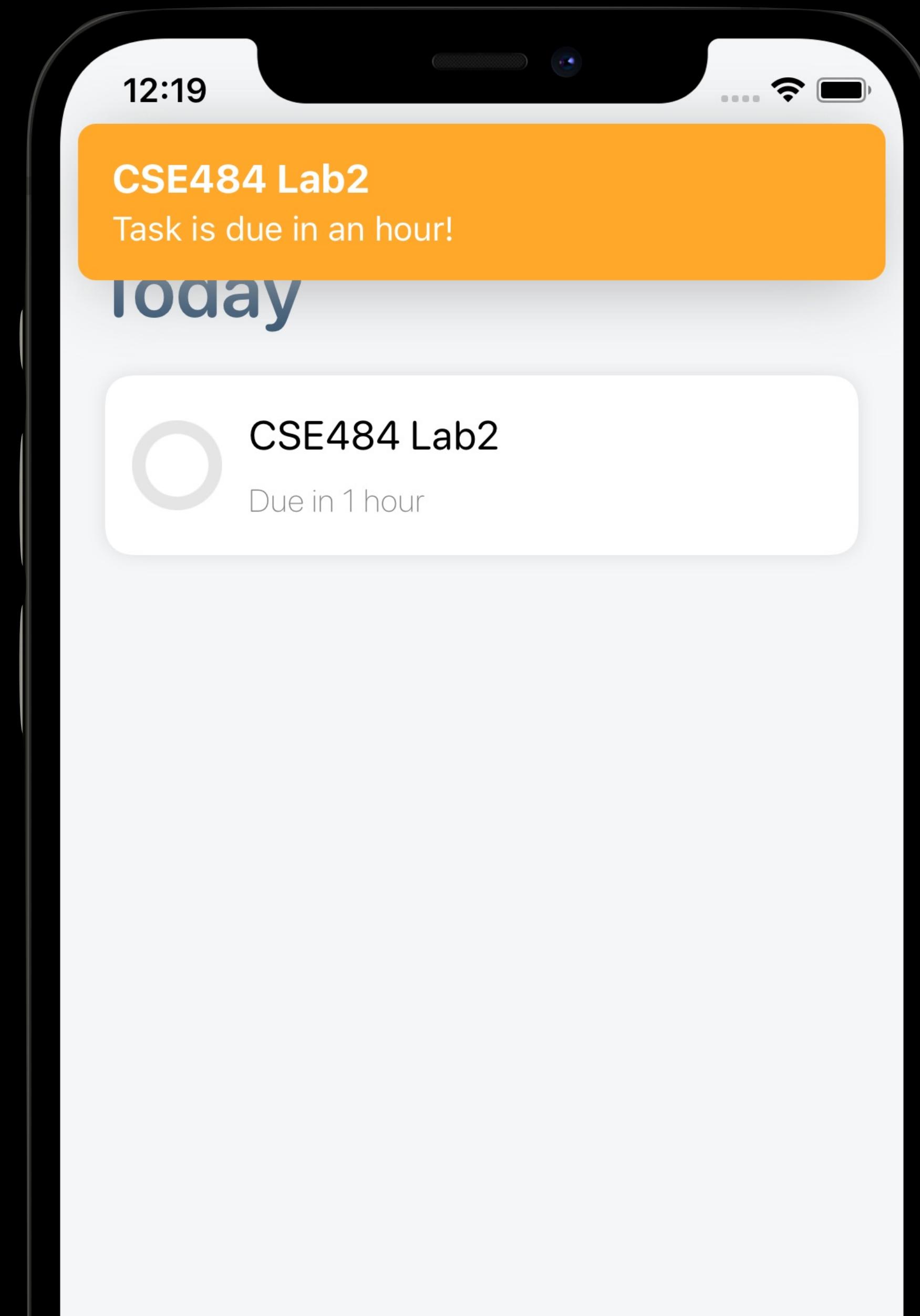
God, I always forget to check tasks after writing them down.

I lose patience and motivation when planning for a large amount of tasks beforehand 😞 !!!!!!



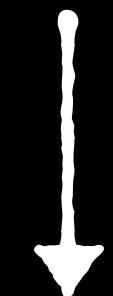
Me tooooooooooo. I seldom take actions because the tools I use never have meaningful notification ... u know they fire notifications to me when I was doing something else..





Constraint 1:

Only write down the tasks and then give up
because of the lack of meaningful notifications



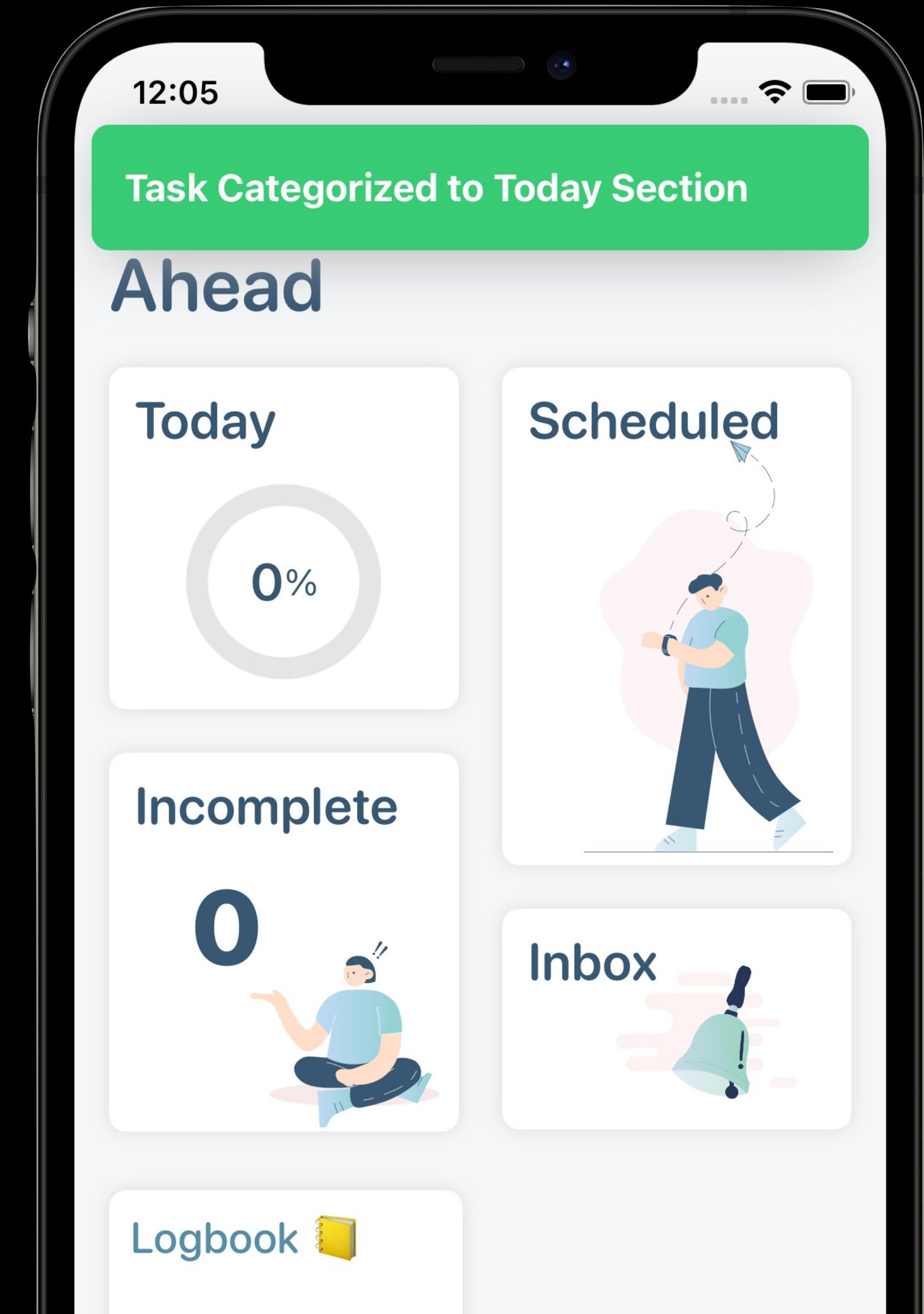
Contextually-aware notifications

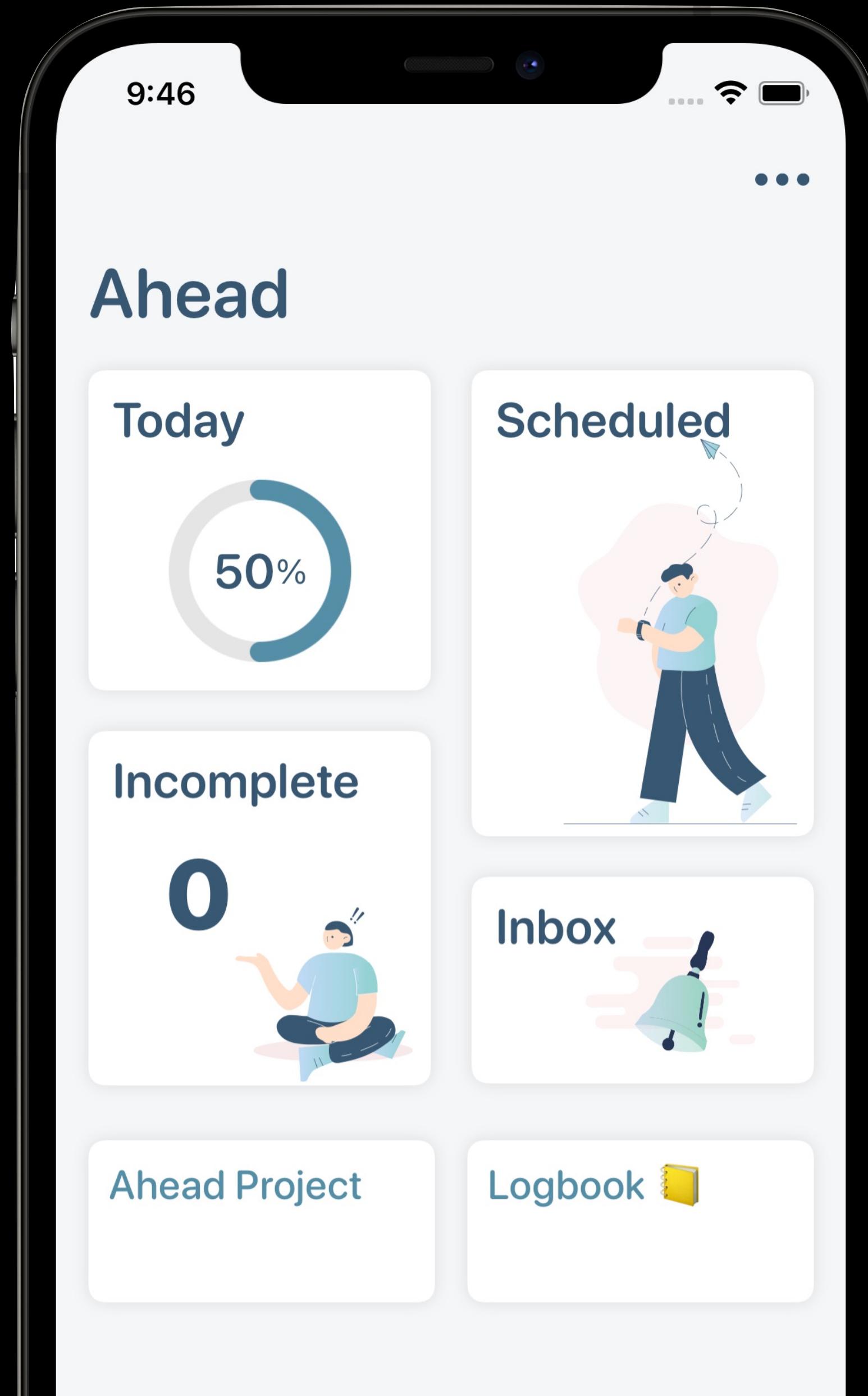
Constraint 2:

Become less patient when organizing large amount of tasks beforehand



Auto-Categorization





Constraint 3:
**Lack experience or knowledge
with advanced tools**

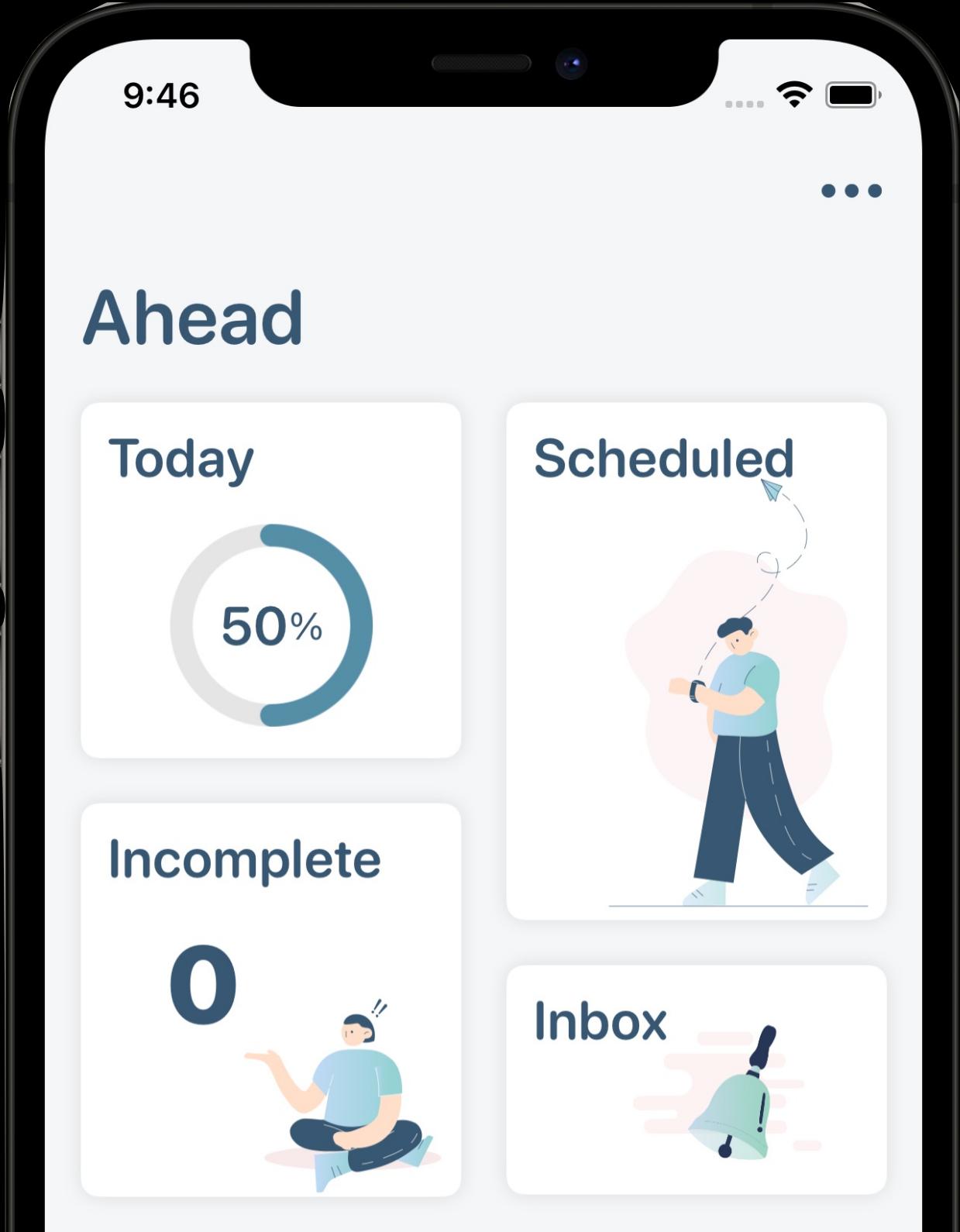
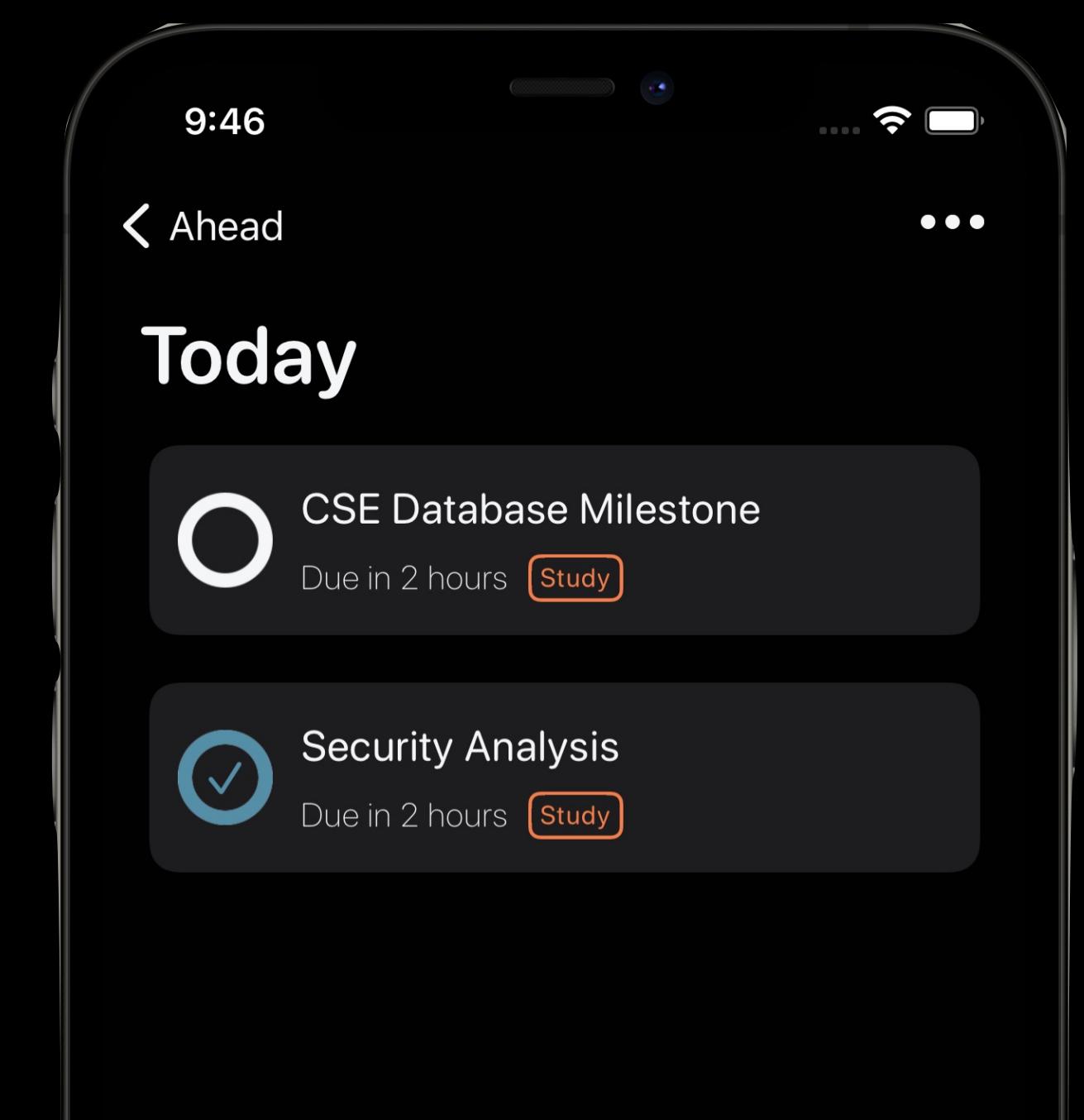


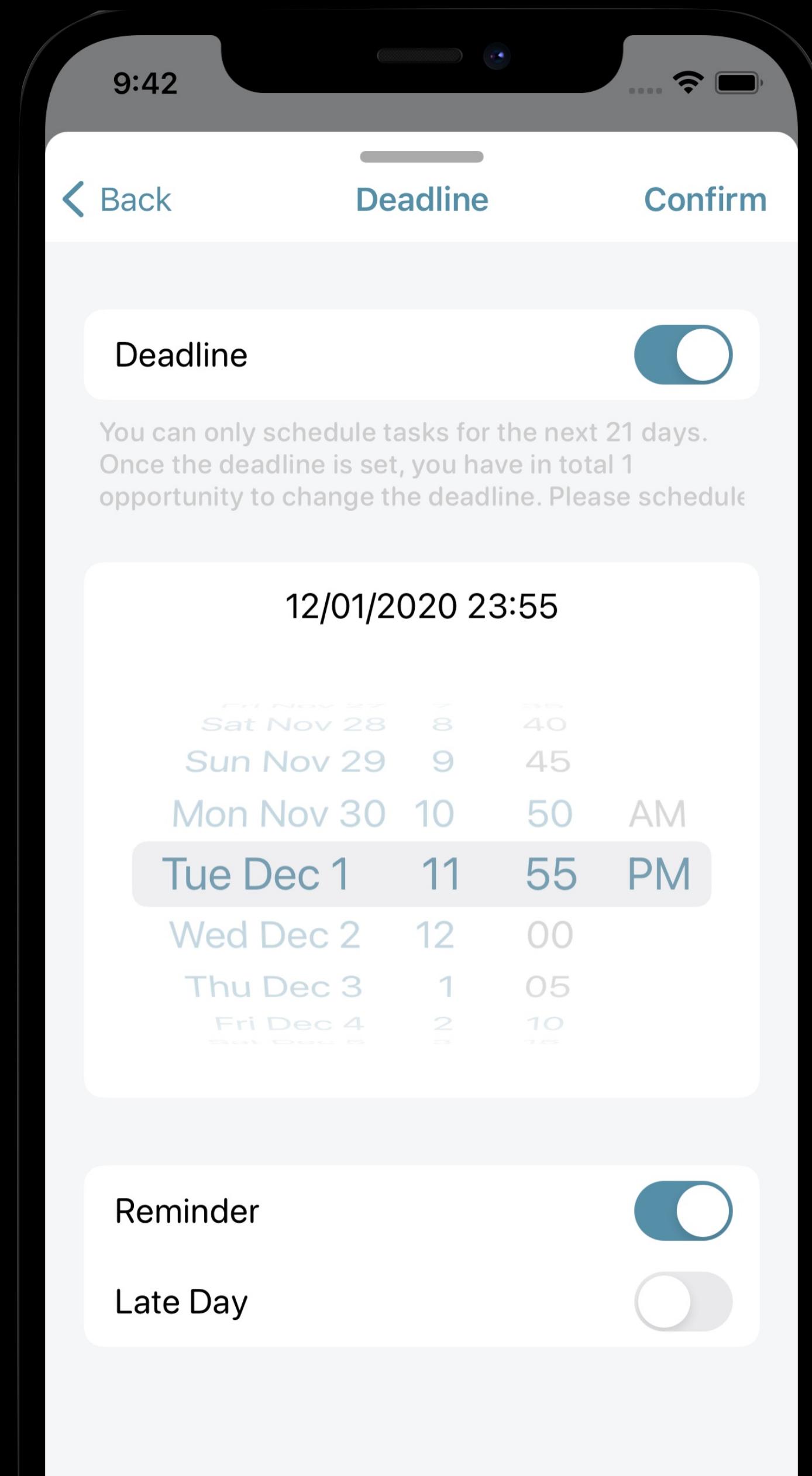
**Apple-Reminder-like
User Interface Design**

Constraint 4:
**Lose track of tasks progress and
lack a sense of achievement**



Daily Progress Tracking





Constraint 5: Technical constraints from software development



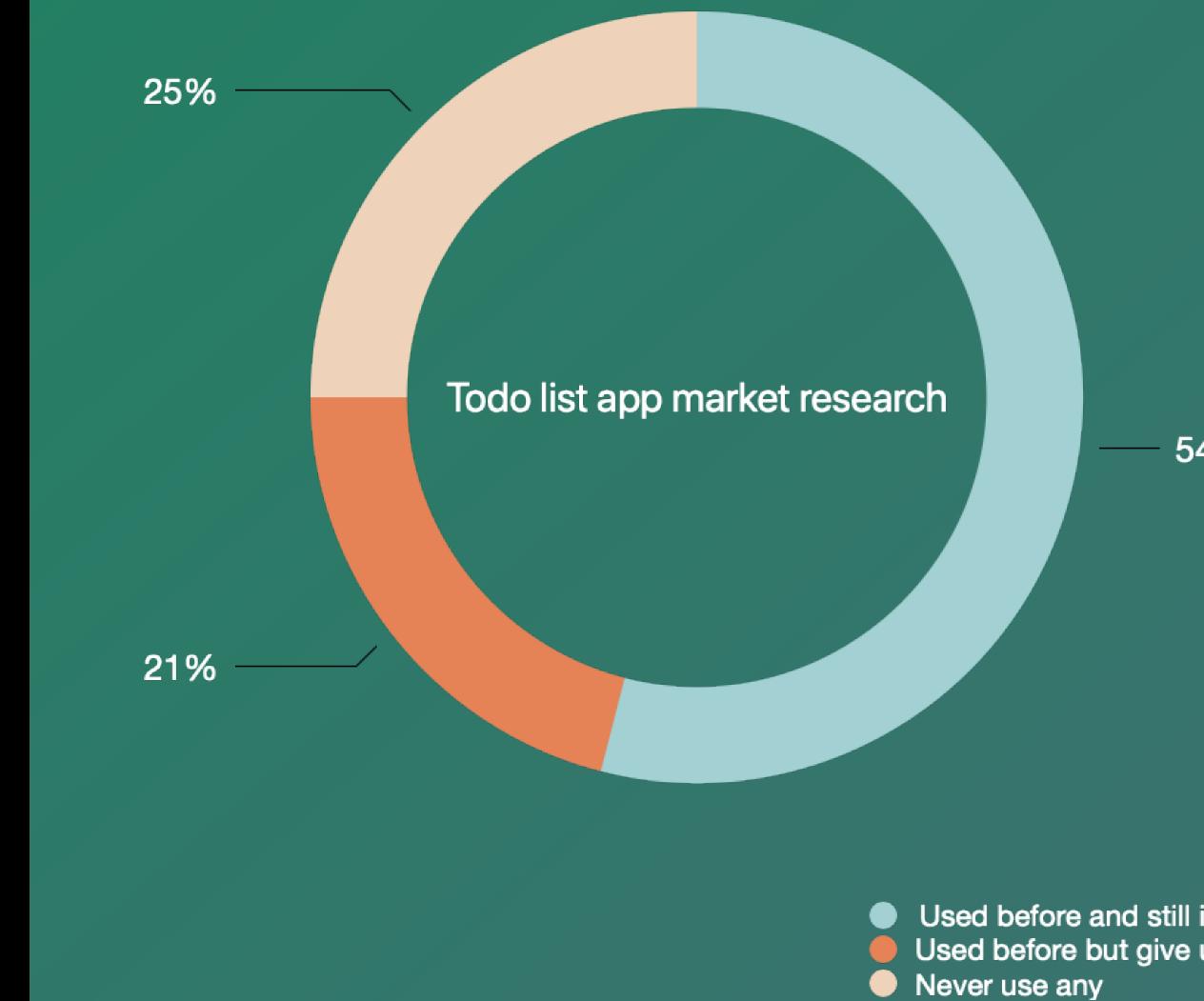
Discard complicated functions and focus on the most important ones.

Narrative

/nərədɪv/

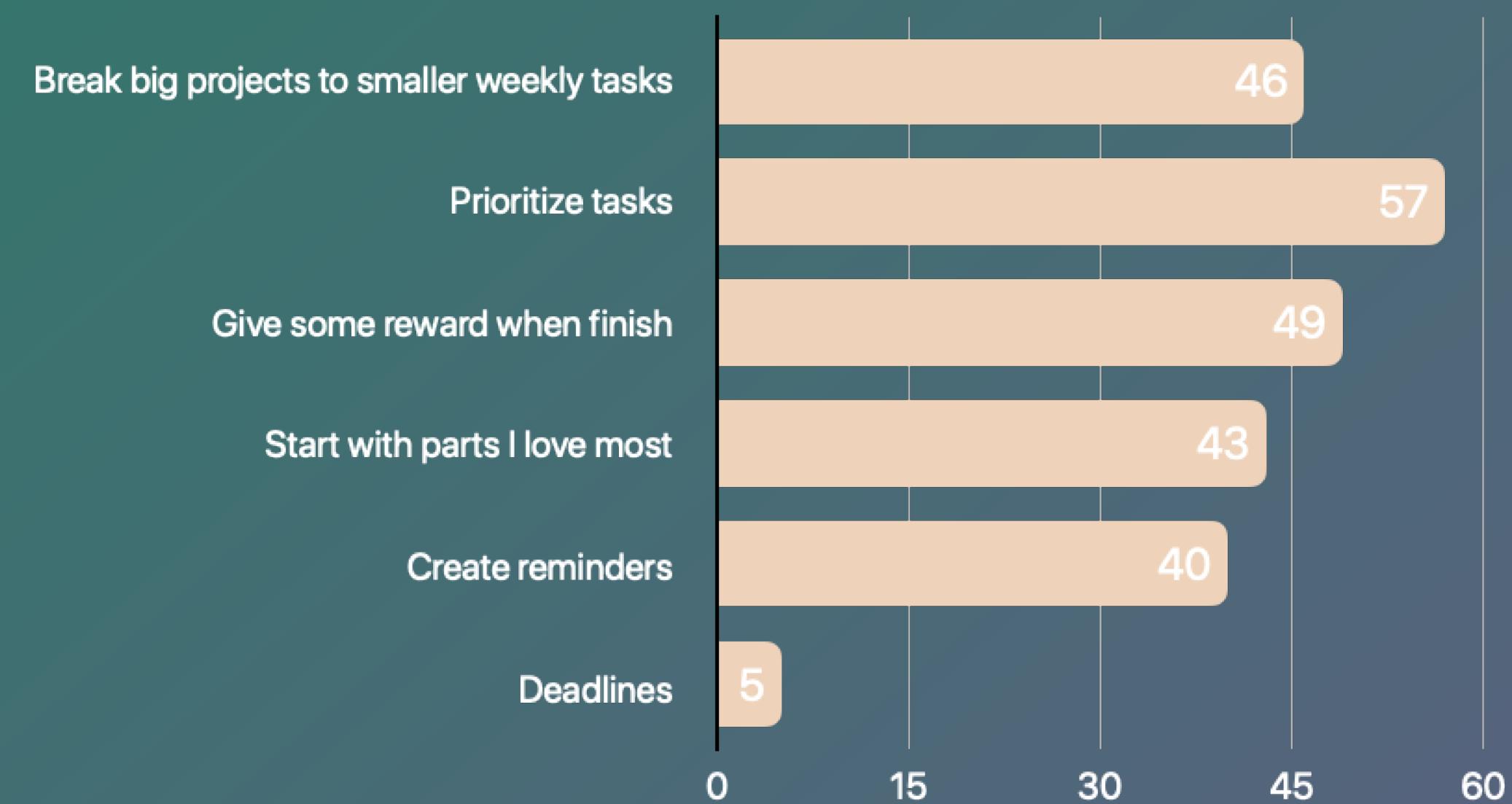
a spoken or written account of connected events; a story

— Merriam Webster



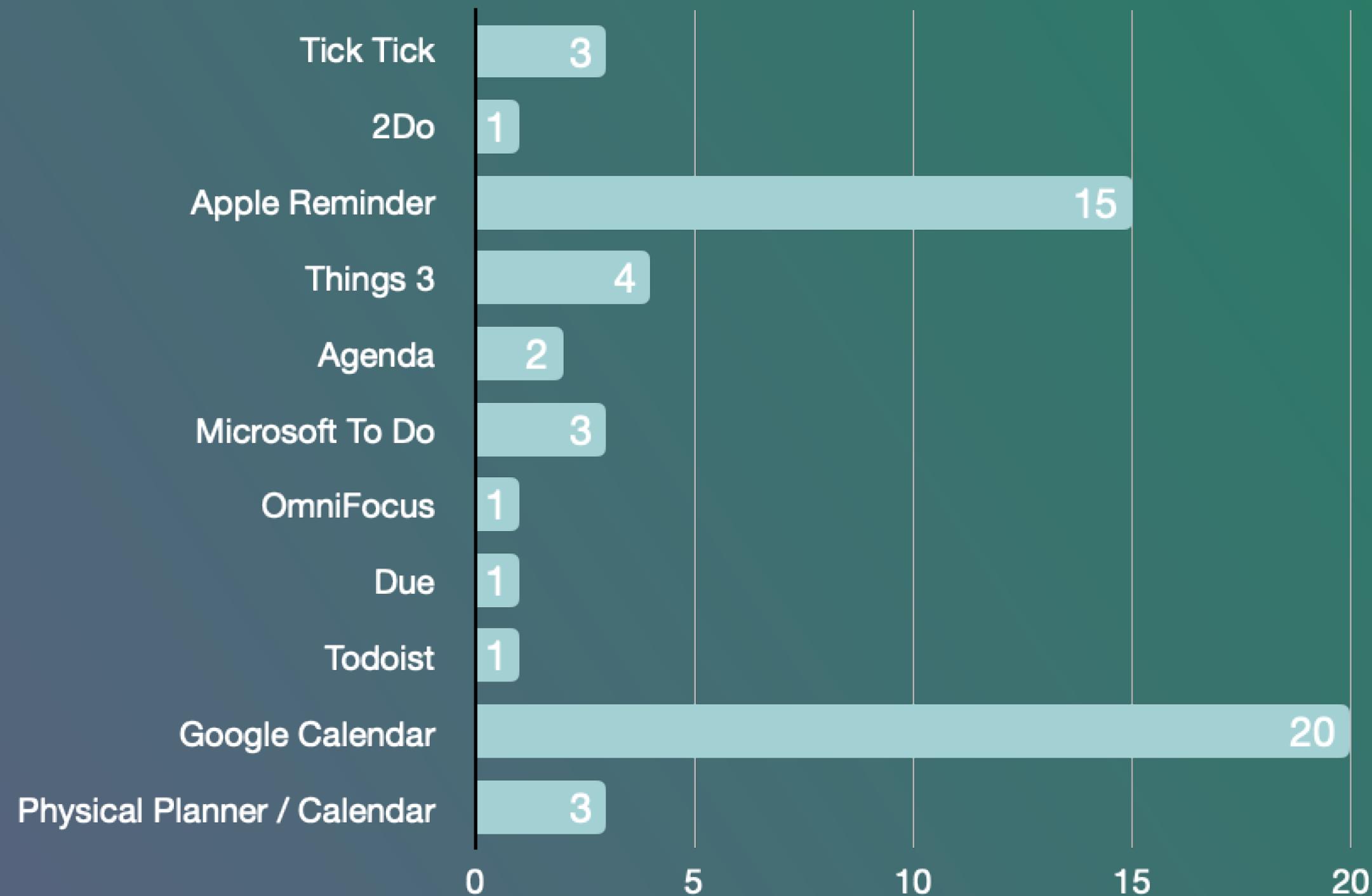
Observation data and constraints help defend argument and story

Motivations in using todo task app



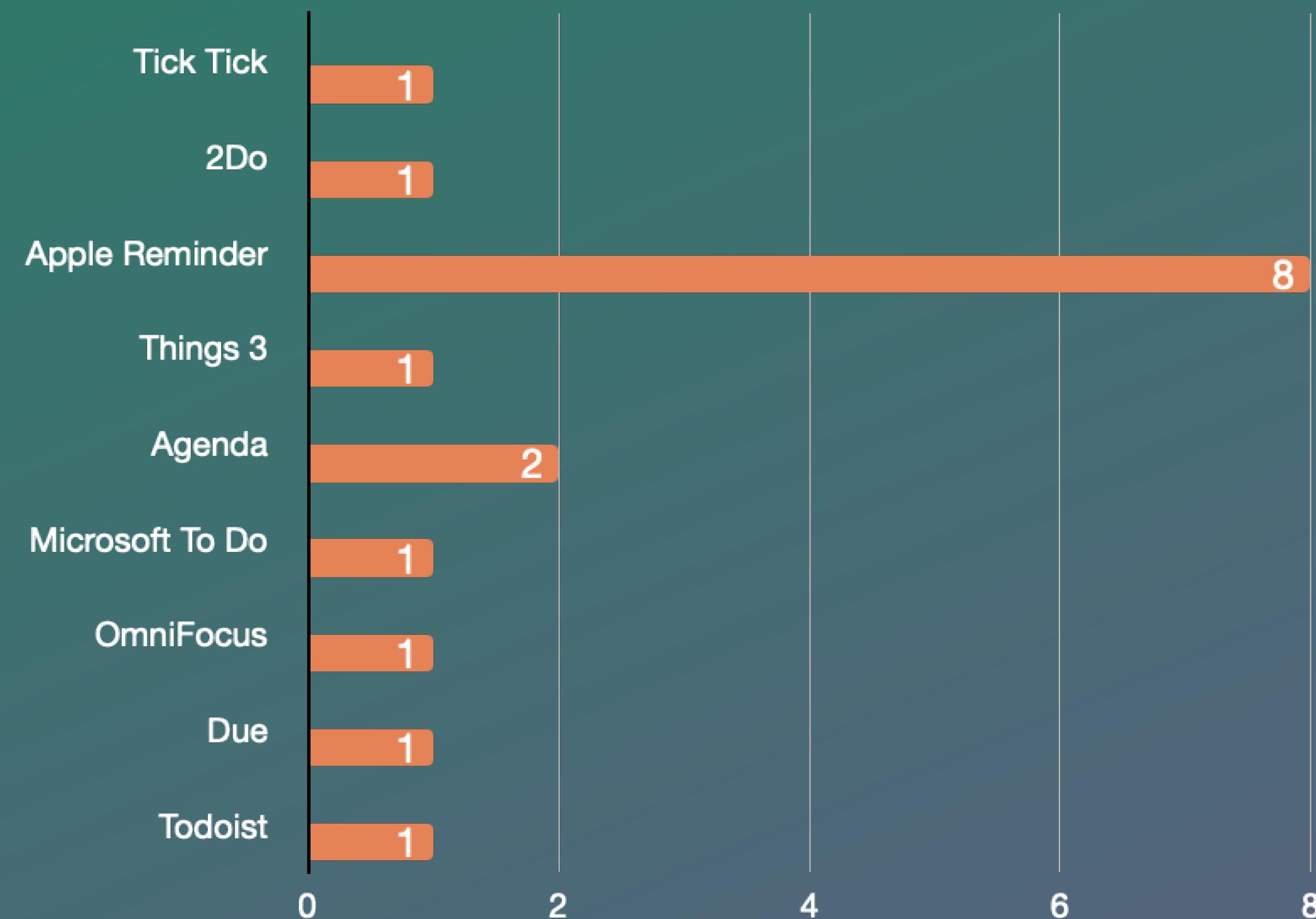
Observation and Constraints give meaningful context.

Todo Tools that are still in use



Context offers target audience investigative information.

Todo tools that have been discarded



The Story



Ahead

“ Uncertainty and change are life constants, especially during the pandemic and work-from-home period. Sitting in front of the Zoom calls, we are constantly interrupted by "BREAKING NEWS" on Twitter, disturbed by food or mail delivery calls, or even diverted by friends' bombarding messages. If you have a similar experience, you would probably like to try out our new app, Ahead.

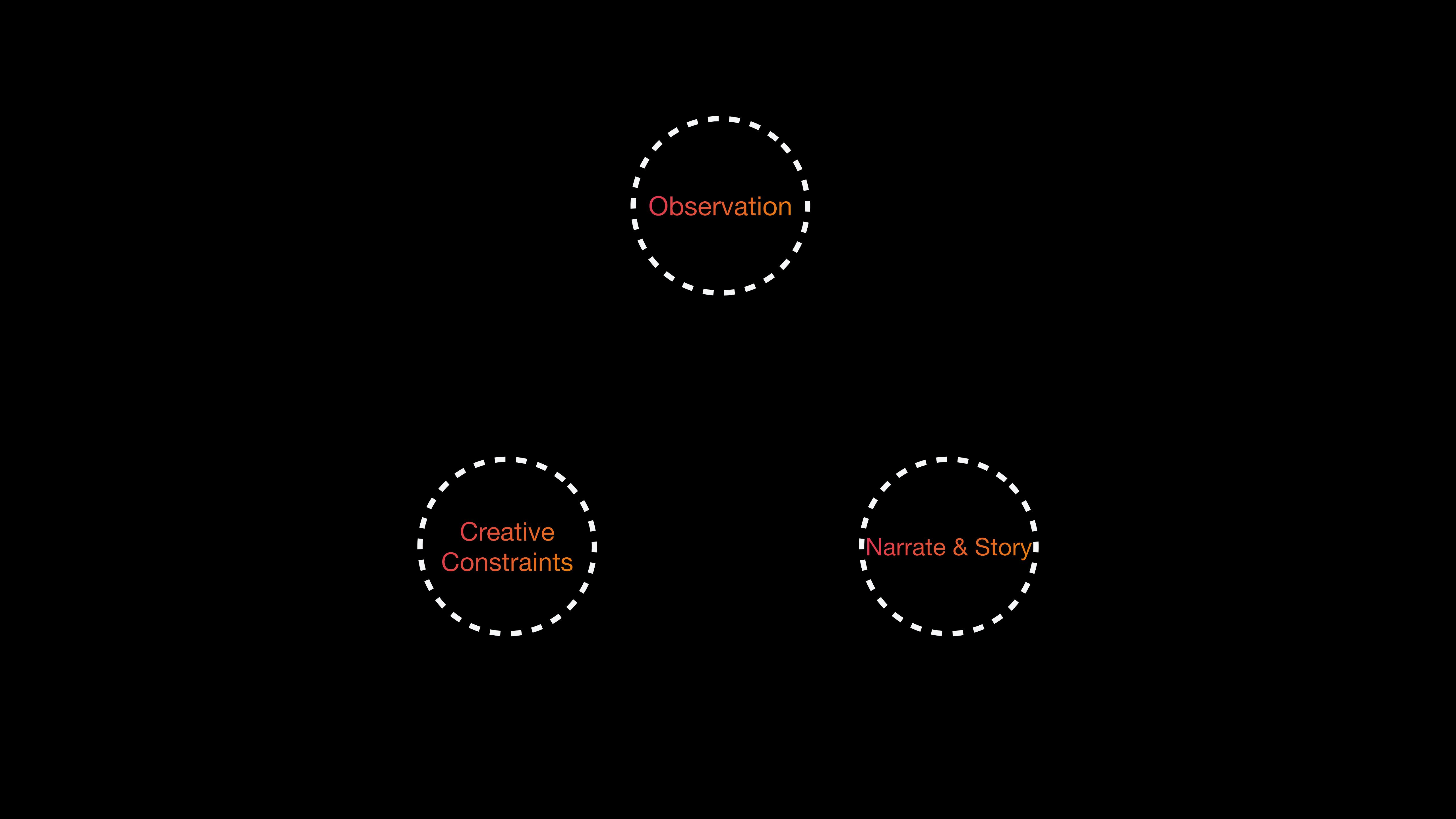
21-day task management and progress tracking keeps life and work **organized** and **efficient**.

Strict due day mode plus incomplete reminder help stay **motivated** and say **goodbye to procrastination**.

Up to 7 late days gives leeway to you and your tasks, with **flexibility** and **accountability**.

Simple yet powerful filters let you navigate among multiple roles **freely** and **confidently**.

Carefully-tuned system-wide **Dark Mode**. The auto switch follows your system preference or you can override the system setting if you like.



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Boundaries

How to Look Better ?

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