Problem Statement Document

1. What problem are you trying to solve?

Students may be managing five, six or even seven courses in one semester in addition to any extracurricular commitments they may have. Each course has an array of quizzes and assignments that students can easily lose track of due to the lack of consolidated information. The way Avenue presents important information is more of a hindrance than a convenience and makes it harder for students to manage deadlines. This unnecessary stress can be detrimental to a student's academic performance and mental well-being.

2. Why is this an important problem?

A recent study showed that 63% of college students experienced overwhelming anxiety and 39% have suffered from depression.[1] Additionally, over 40% of college students take on a part time job. Balancing work, school and mental health is challenging, especially for younger individuals like students. Alleviating some of the stress from academics helps students avoid mental health issues and live a healthy lifestyle.

1. American College Health Association. Undergraduate Student Reference Group Fall 2018. https://www.acha.org/documents/ncha/NCHA-II_Fall_2018_Undergraduate_Reference _Group_Data_Report.pdf

3. What is the context of the problem you are solving?

Our rendition of the Avenue-linked To-Do list is aimed directly towards students that attend McMaster University.Using a web-scraper, a list will be compiled with the weight of each assignment and the associated course, which would compliment the feature to automatically assign importance and/or undergo Pomodoro-based scheduling. This way, students who are stressed and "don't know where to start" can use the product as a way to efficiently block out their study time.

Students spend an average of 7 hours on their ~~phones~~ computers throughout the day. This can be used as an advantage to create a software solution that will be a ~~Mobile~~ web application ~~compatible with iOS or Android~~, making it accessible on the go. The application is geared towards "Educational and Organizational" type niches.

3.1 Primary Stakeholders (Direct Benefit)

McMaster Students

- Gains

  - Ability to collate ALL assignments across courses
  - Ability to plan in advance (maybe see in a calendar form)
  - Ability to involve a productivity method (ex. Pomodoro) with tasks

- Pains

  - Key deadlines and amendments are lost across classes
  - Lack of centralized source of information

  Professors

- Gains

  - Ability to track student progress off of the To-Do list, good way to see if sufficient time has been allocated to each project

- Pains

  - Most students don't provide feedback, but complain about not having enough time

3.2 Secondary Stakeholders (Implicated in the Production of our Product)

McMaster University

- Student Wellness Center

  - Gains
    * Ability to run anxiety awareness programs
  - Pains
    * Decreased student engagement due to pandemic

- Academic Success Center

  - Gains
    * Ability to teach time management & productivity tips
  - Pains
    * Ability to collate ALL assignments across courses

Brightspace (A2L Software)

- Gains

  - Compliments current product

- Pains

  - Software is organized so that rebuilding to funnel assignments to one source is complex (since each course is structured to be mutually exclusive)