Check in Number 1

Short answers- a few sentences- is fine for these questions.

1. Please describe your tracking/journaling UI focus or theme. You can of course change to a different selection, but I strongly recommend choosing your focus now.

For my project, the theme I am picking from is Growth/Learning. I will focus on creating a tracking UI for job searches, job applications, and networking.

2. Describe your interview plan and initial set of interview questions for capturing user needs.

My plan for interviews is to understand how people currently track and manage their job search process (applications, networking, follow-ups), what challenges they face, and what tools or practices they find helpful. Particularly, my audience is of college students currently searching for a full time role.

Initial Interview Question Set:

1. What is your most recent experience searching for jobs or internships?
2. What does a typical day or week of job searching look like for you?
3. How do you currently keep track of the jobs you apply to?
4. Have you ever used a tool, spreadsheet, or app for this? What was that experience like?
5. How do you usually keep track of people you've networked with or connections you've made?
6. Can you share a time when tracking or forgetting a networking contact affected your search?
7. What is the most frustrating part of keeping your job search organized?
8. Are there moments when you feel overwhelmed or lose track of your progress?
9. What keeps you motivated during the job search process?
10. Do you ever reflect on your progress or growth? If so, how?

3. If you have not conducted your interviews- Describe how you will find people to interview. If you have conducted your interviews- Describe initial interview responses.

I plan to recruit participants from my immediate network of college students who are currently engaged in the job search process for full-time roles. My target audience includes seniors preparing to graduate, recent graduates in their first job search, and peers in professional student organizations.

Check in 2

I am sticking with the Growth/Learning theme. The UI focuses on helping users track job applications, networking conversations, hours spent searching, and personal reflections so they can see their progress over time and stay organized.

From my interviews with college students currently job searching, I learned that most participants use a mix of spreadsheets, notes apps, and mental tracking, which they find hard to keep consistent. The biggest challenges were forgetting follow-ups, losing track of deadlines, and feeling unmotivated when they couldn't see progress.

The UI has minimal design so the Overview snapshot is easy to understand. I plan to add a "Next Steps" or "Reminders" section based on participant feedback, so users don't forget follow-ups.

My plan is to finish building all input components and saving functionality in the next two days, then work on styling and polishing the interface Saturday.

Participants wanted a simple, visual way to see what they've accomplished, reminders for next steps, and a place to jot down networking notes.

Many expressed that reflecting on small wins would help them stay positive and focused during a long job search process.