

Todo lists in a college student's life

Study 1: Semi-Structured interview

Background

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Having a healthy organized life as a college student isn't easy. Besides their studies, they need to balance their relationships between their family, friends, their part-time job, and even their "*me time*" where they need to meditate and organize their minds for better mental health. So we UX researchers aim to create a todo app (Mobile app) for college students who have a busy life and also need to do their best in their academic life.

Research Goal

Our goal is to know how college students organize and prioritize their tasks by learning how they manage their to-do lists. We want to know what motivates them to complete their task at their due times and make them and to make sure that our product meets their needs.

Method

For qualitative data gathering, the researcher will meet the interviewer in an online meeting (via Zoom) and the meeting will last 15 minutes for each interviewer.

As it's a semi-structured interview the researcher will ask the interviewer primary question then change the follow-up questions depending on the interviewer's answers.

Recruiting

5 Participants. The volunteers were recruited from trusted friends.

3 of them work part-time jobs as their college isn't in their hometown and the other **2** go to a college in their hometown and have no part-time jobs.

Research Questions

- [Needs] What is essential to create a good to-do list?
 - What makes a to-do list overwhelming for users?
 - How to make a better prioritization of the tasks in a to-do list?
- [Behaviors] How do students use and create a to-do list?
 - How do they use current digital products?
- Do users need another product?
 - What do they want to change/keep in these existing products?

Script

Introduction

Hello, My name is Rahma, I'm really glad to see you participating in this interview. I'm here to have a small conversation with you about your experience with digital to-do apps as I'm working on a project that is related to using and creating a to-do list using a digital product. This interview will last 15 minutes. Please let me know if you want to leave the meeting. Last thing, would you mind recording this meeting for note-taking purposes? We won't share them with anyone outside our team.

Shall we start?

Warm-up Questions *[starting with easy questions to break the ice with the interviewers]*

1. Tell us more about yourself, (interviewer name)
2. What is your major and in which year are you?
3. Which app are you currently using to create a to-do list?

Needs and behaviors

4. What made you start using a to-do list app? *[Reasons]*
 - How was your experience with that app?
 - What makes it better than using paper notes?
5. How often do you create a to-do list?
 - Do you create a to-do list when you have so many tasks? *[understand whether the user depend on the digital app too much or not]*
6. What motivates you to complete your tasks on time? *[Motivation to complete using the product]*
 - Do you like these green check marks on each task you completed?
 - Do you get motivated when you see motivational quotes?
7. How do you priorities your academic tasks?
 - Does the digital app help you priorities these tasks?
8. What is the app you currently that helps you organize your to-do list?
 - What was the first app you used?

- why did you switch from it? *[to understand user requirements and how they are met with these products]*
- 9. When do you often create your to-do list? *[understand the daily routine of the interviewer]*
- 10. As you mentioned using Google Calendar Could you walk me through how you use this app? *[understand usability and user interaction with the product]*
 - Do you like the way the to-do list is organized? *[understand whether the design of the product is overwhelming or not]*
 - What are the difficult features that took so much time for you to understand? *[ambiguities in the product]*

Wrap-up

Thank you so much for being part of this survey with your thoughts and experience, Your answers will help us so much to create a better app. If you want to share more thoughts feel free to email me at [rahhma.husein@gmail.com] Glad to see you have a nice day.

Survey Questions

1. What's your education level *[Understand which type of these students depend more on to-dos]*
 - a. High school student
 - b. Bachelor's student
 - c. Master's student
2. Do you depend on digital products in your daily life *[Assumption: if the user depends on technology then they'll understand new products features faster]*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
3. How many apps you're using for creating a to-do list? *[Assumption: if they use more than one app then the features of a single app isn't enough and this might be disrtiputing]*
 - a. 1 app
 - b. 2 apps
 - c. Other (please specify__)
4. In the past month, how many to-dos have you created? *[understand whether they get motivated whenever they complete a task or not]*
 - a. 2-4 lists
 - b. 5-10 lists
 - c. Other (please specify__)

5. In the past month, what are main mobile apps did you use? *[Most popular app that meets the user requirements]*
 - a. Microsoft To-Do
 - b. Notion
 - c. Other (please specify___)
6. Does the current product help you prioritize your tasks and separate them according to this prioritization? *[Frequency]*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
7. Do you like seeing total tasks you've warped up together in your to-do app? *[Assumption: seen total achievements motivates the person to complete their tasks]*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
8. What makes the current to-do app your using better than the other products? Describe.
9. If you find something is missing in those digital apps please list at least 2 of these missing requirements.