



Time Saver

An elegant task tracking solution
for busy students

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THE PROBLEM

- ▶ Student's have a hard time staying on track while studying.
- ▶ This leads to increased anxiety as well as poor grades.
- ▶ Most student's have some sort of way to plan their day but its lacking.
- ▶ Student's only use about 65% of their study time for on-task work.
- ▶ Most modern time tracking applications don't analyze how the user accomplishes their tasks or if they could have been completed more efficiently.

CONTEXTUAL INQUIRIES

Methodology & Approach

- ▶ Limit observer effect in time study
- ▶ Find participants whose lives reflects the problem
- ▶ Conduct inquiries, where participants spend their school time
- ▶ Try and understand how students get distracted

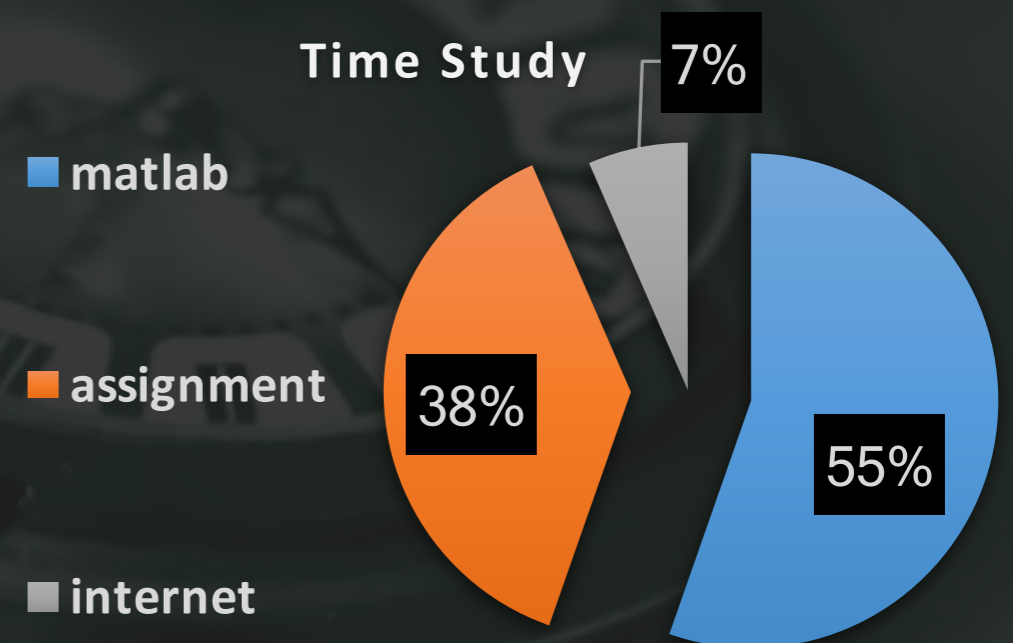
Participants

- ▶ Austin: Junior in Mechanical Engineering
- ▶ Jennifer: Bio-Med Student
- ▶ Alyssa: Sophomore in Computer Science

CONTEXTUAL INQUIRIES

Participant 1: Austin

- ▶ Selected because of heavy course load & tight deadlines
- ▶ Interviewed in home, didn't get distracted
- ▶ However, didn't understand how he spent his time
- ▶ Showed results of time study with him




CONTEXTUAL INQUIRIES

Participant 2: Jennifer

- ▶ Selected because of the types of classes she was taking (online)
- ▶ Interviewed in home
- ▶ Gets distracted by other people, but can stay on task when due date is approaching

CONTEXTUAL INQUIRIES

Participant 3: Alyssa

- ▶ Selected because she had a full time job in addition to school
 - ▶ Interviewed in home
 - ▶ Easily distracted
 - ▶ Tries to give herself more time to counteract distractions
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CONTEXTUAL INQUIRIES

Results

- ▶ Participants knew what distracted, usually something in particular
 - ▶ Social interactions where the common distraction
- ▶ None of the participants liked the idea of a tracking app
 - ▶ This presented a unique challenge on how to help improve distractions
 - ▶ Keeping track of non-digital events is cumbersome and a distraction in of itself
- ▶ Finding an incentive to use a time helper application was key
 - ▶ Participants also needed incentive to start projects earlier

INITIAL TASKS

1. Finding an incentive to study – Medium Task
 - ▶ Finding more proactive ways of beginning assignments.
2. Reflecting on how time was spent – Easy Task
 - ▶ Finding an easy and time efficient way to reflect on time spent.
3. Realizing when off task – Medium Task
 - ▶ Finding a way to realize when off task immediately instead of getting carried away with distractions

INITIAL TASKS

4. Planning time for a task – Medium Task

- ▶ Finding a way to efficiently schedule tasks and maximize free time.

5. Staying on task during group study sessions – Hard Task

- ▶ Finding a way to stay on task in group settings and minimize distractions.

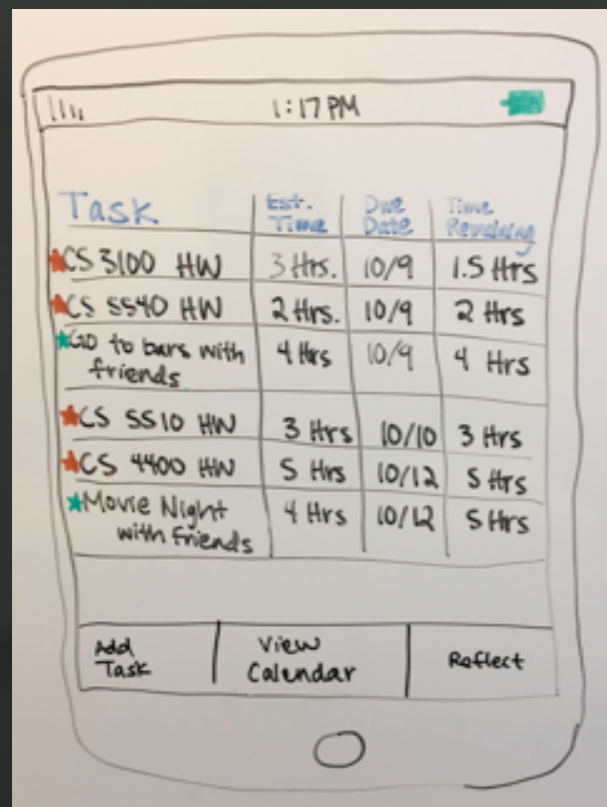
6. Switching between tasks efficiently – Hard Task

- ▶ Finding ways to switch in between tasks without wasting extra time.

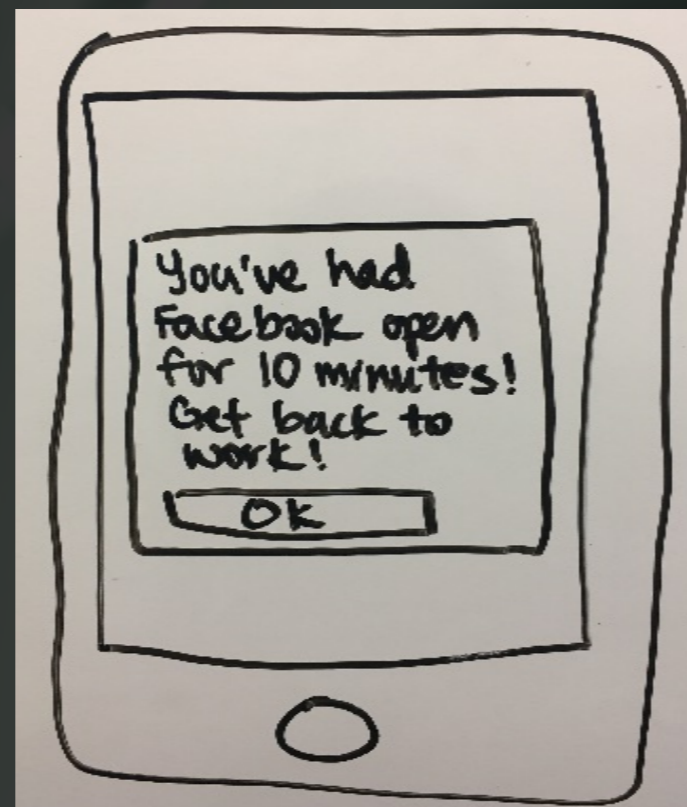
DESIGN 1

Task Scheduler Mobile Application

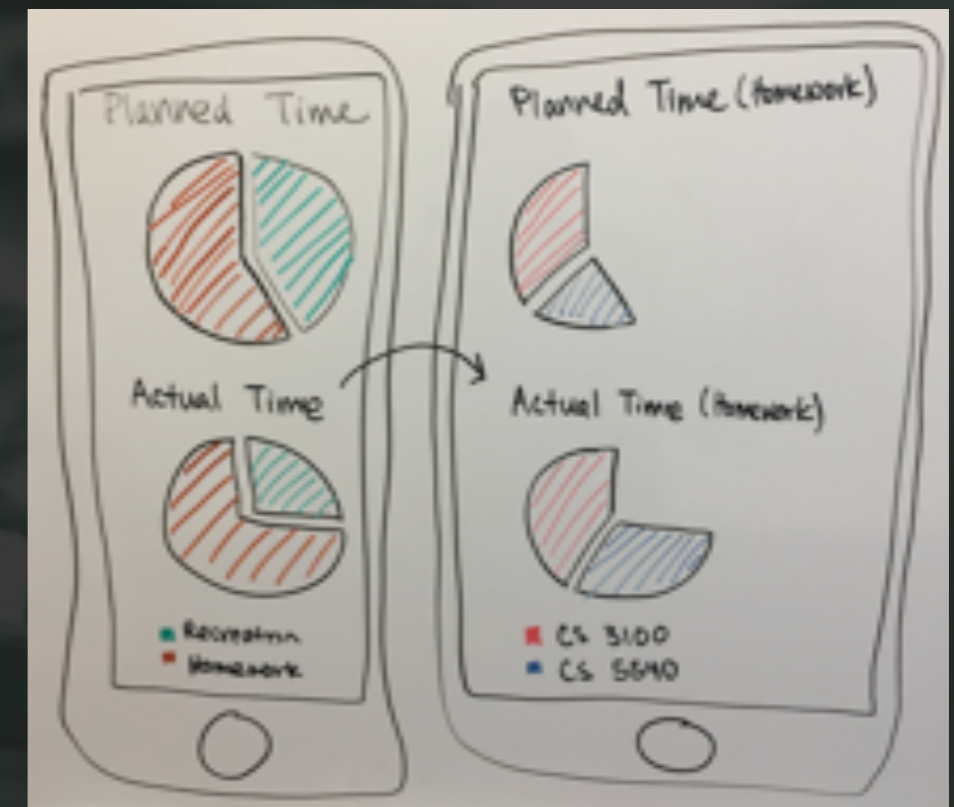
Task Schedule/Tracking



Off Task Notifications



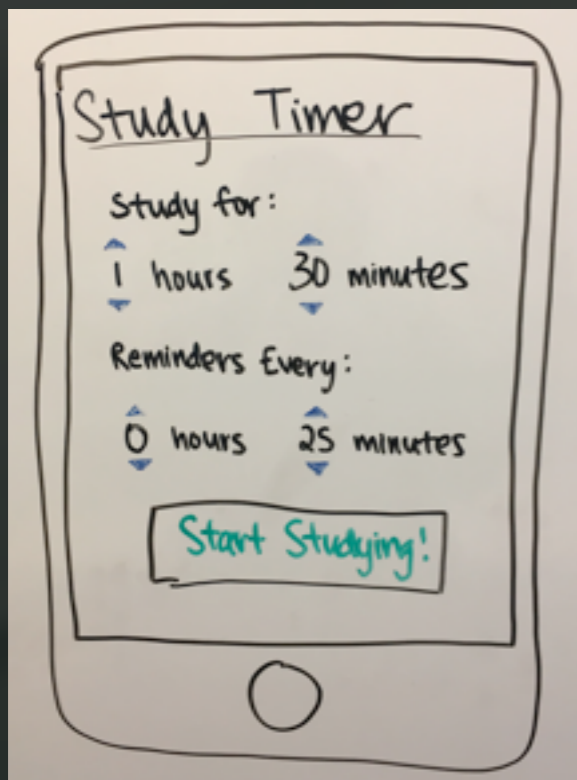
Planned Time Reflection



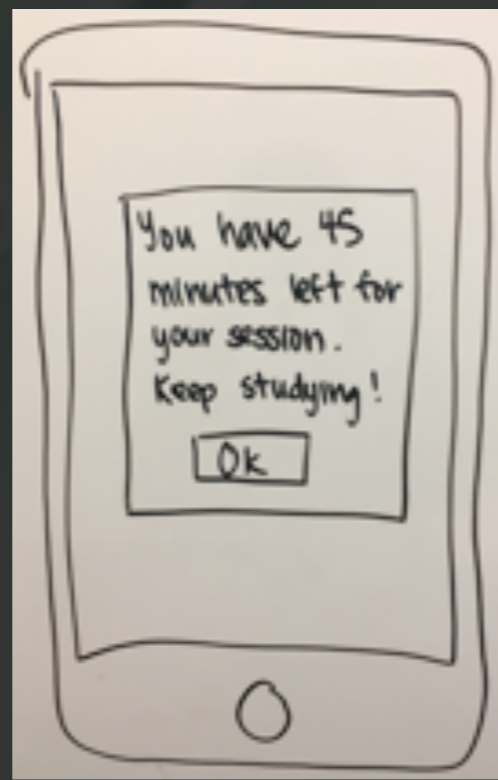
DESIGN 2

Study Timer Mobile Application

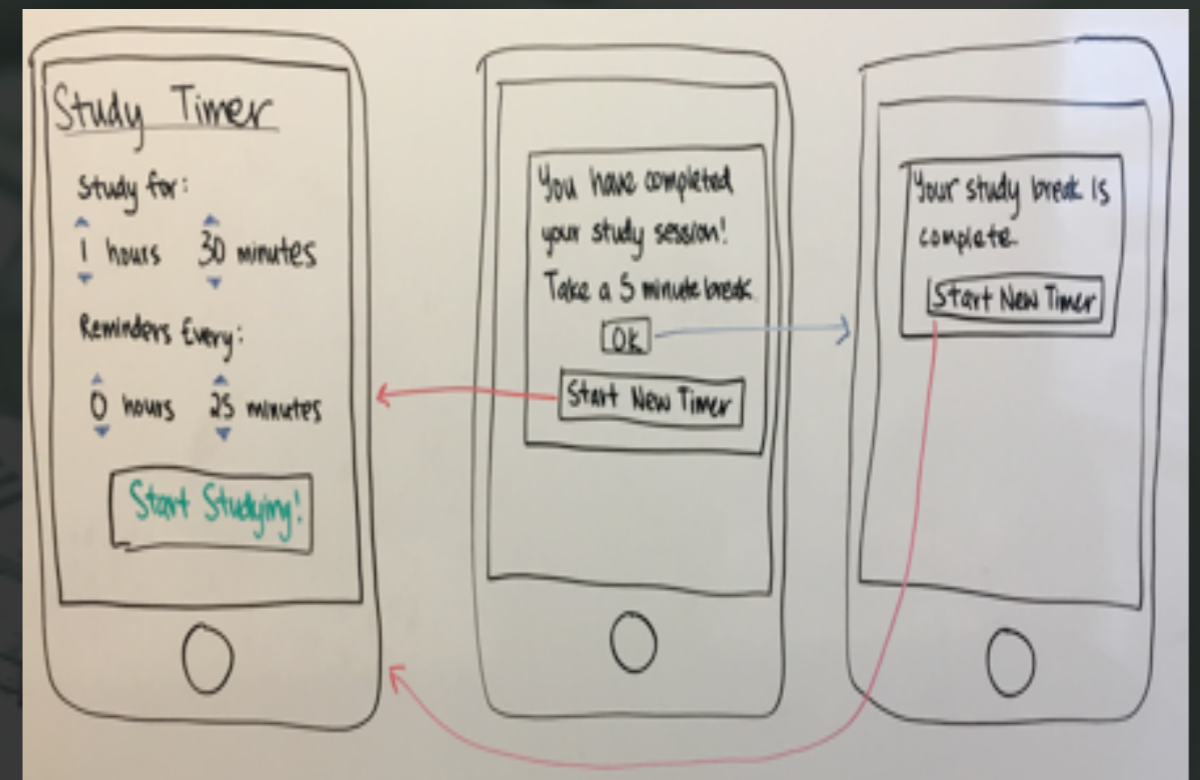
Starting Study Session Timer



Reminder Notifications



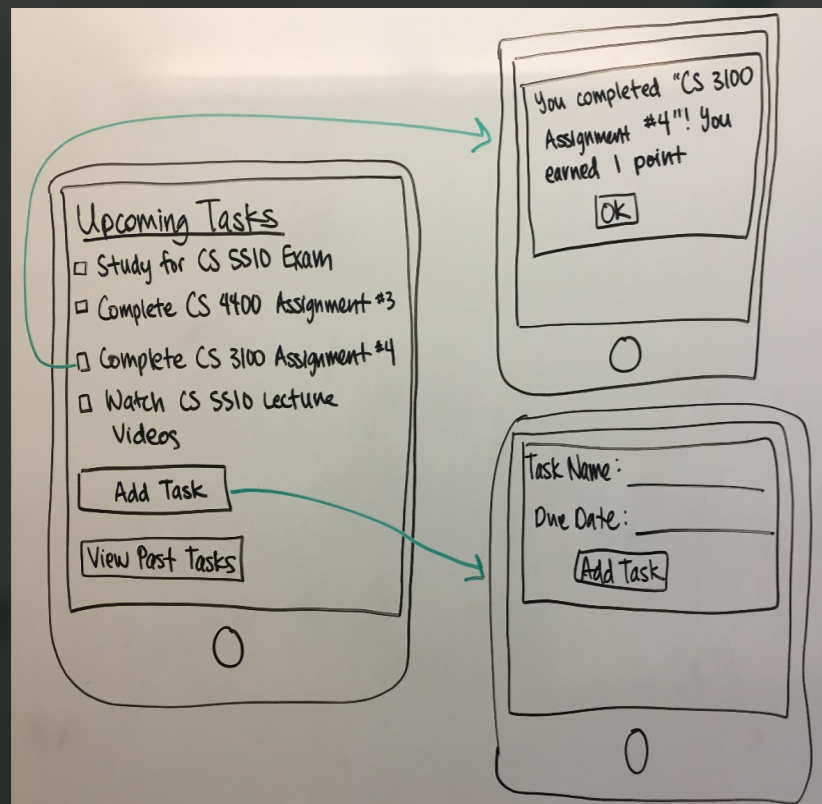
In Between Tasks and Starting a New Timer



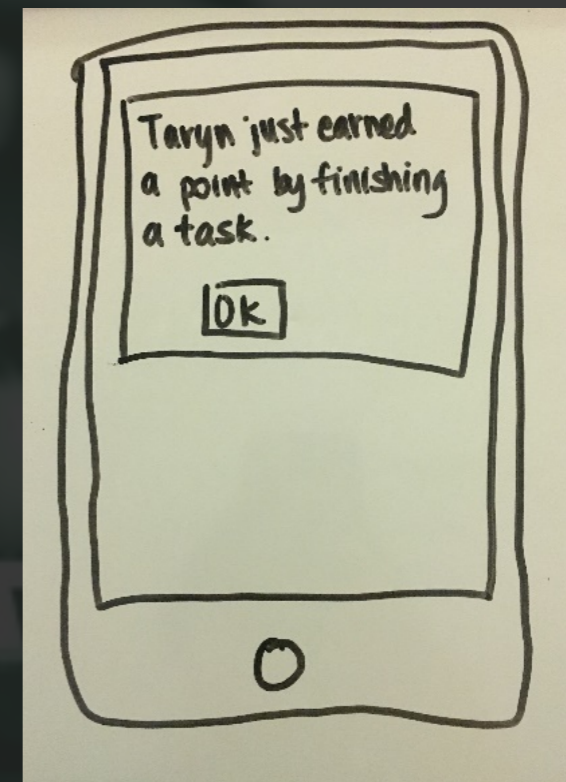
DESIGN 3

Incentivized Task Manager

Task Manager / Adding Tasks / Earning Points



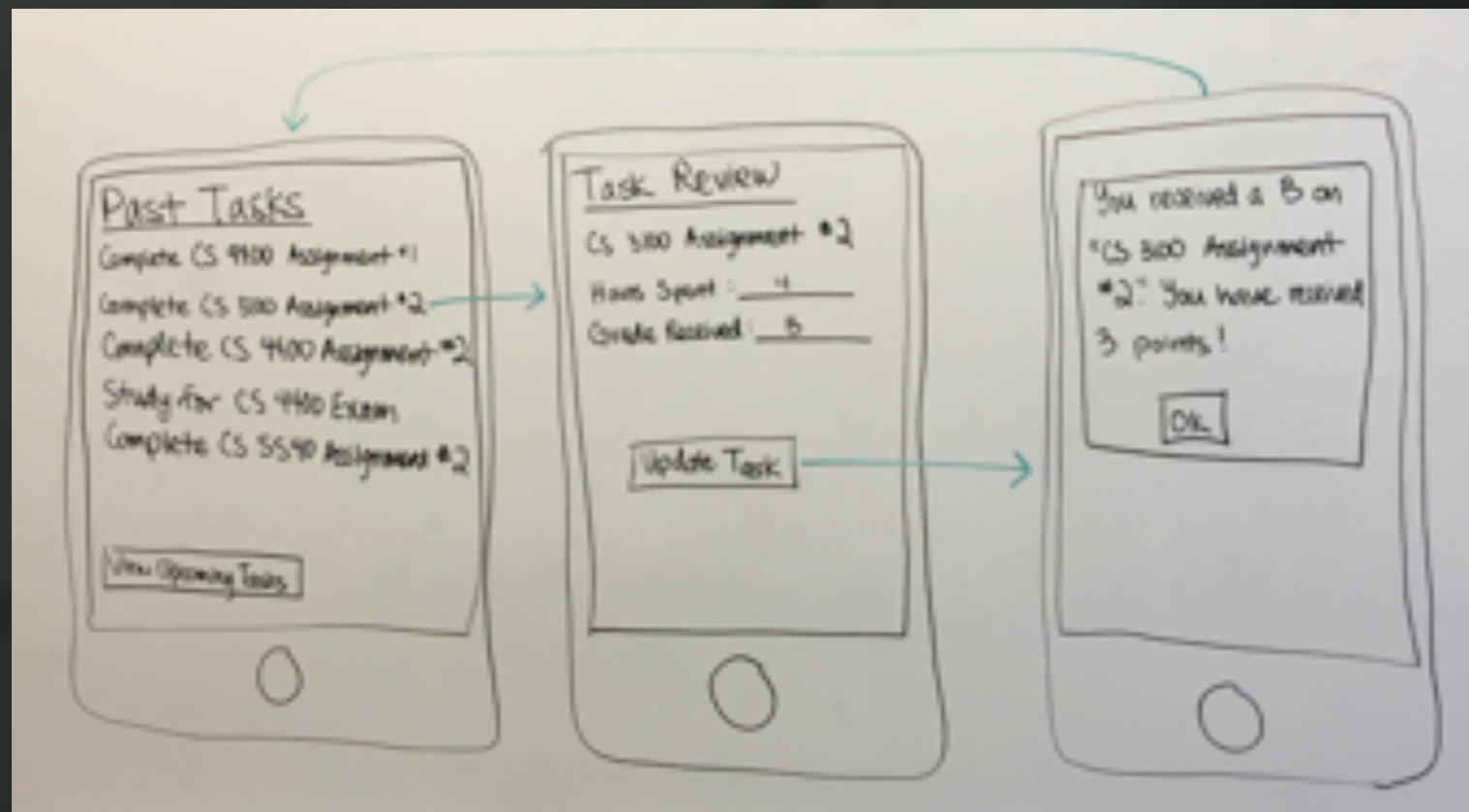
Notifications of Competition Earning Points



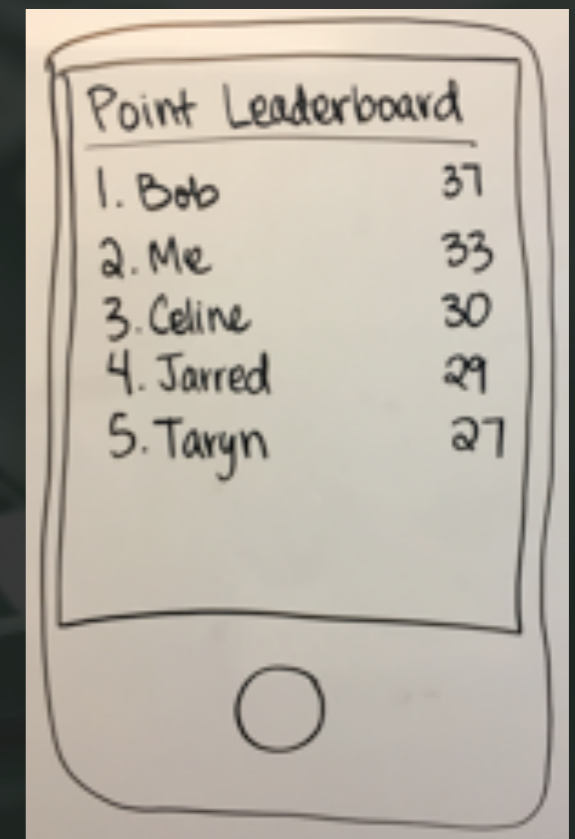
DESIGN 3

Incentivized Task Manager... continued

Updating Past Assignments For More Points



Point Leaderboards



SELECTED DESIGN & TASKS

Design 3: Incentivized Task Manager

Staying on Task



Leaderboards

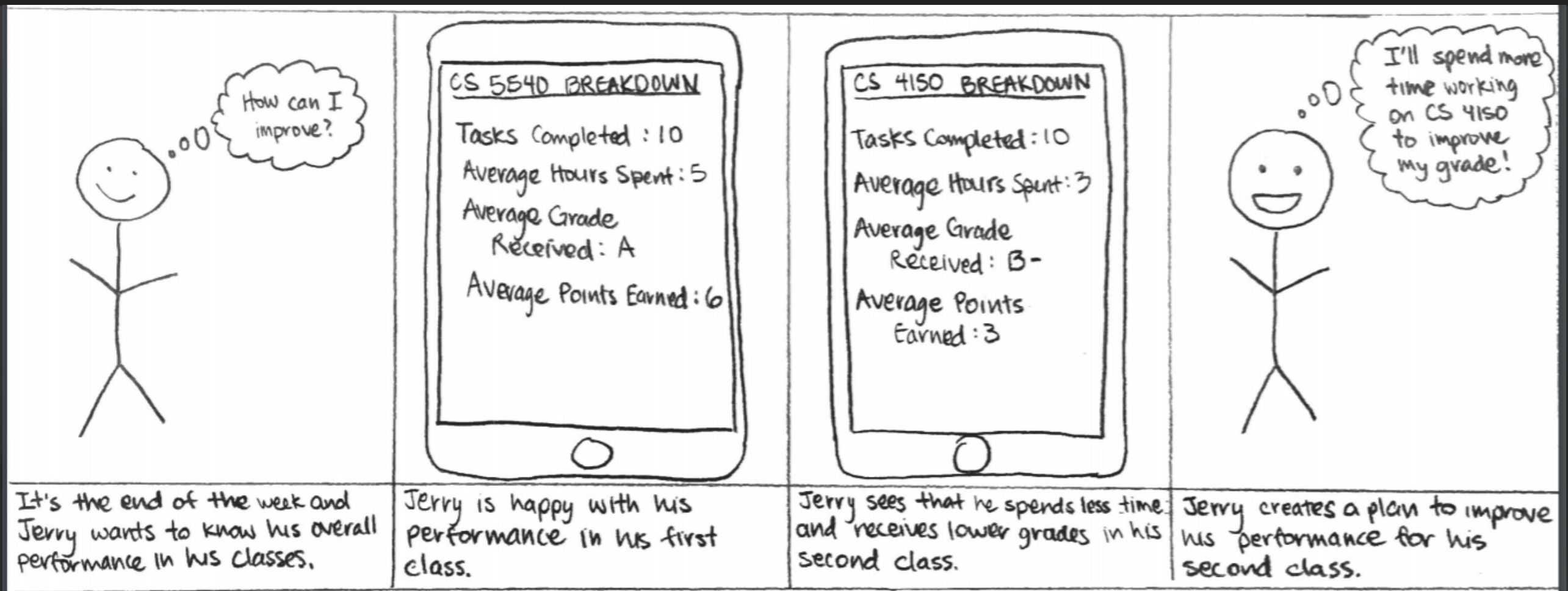


Incentives



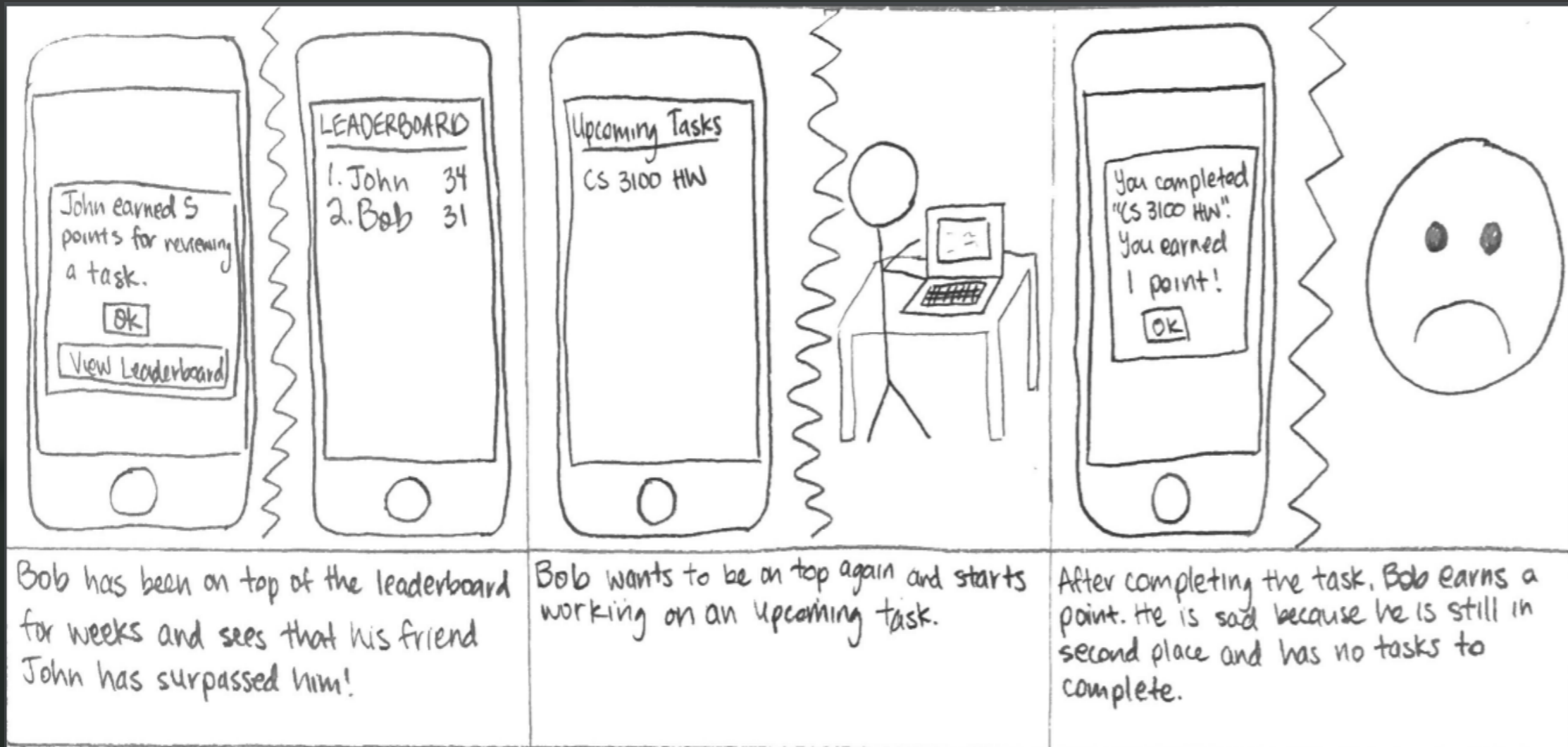
STORYBOARD 1

Reflecting on how time is spent



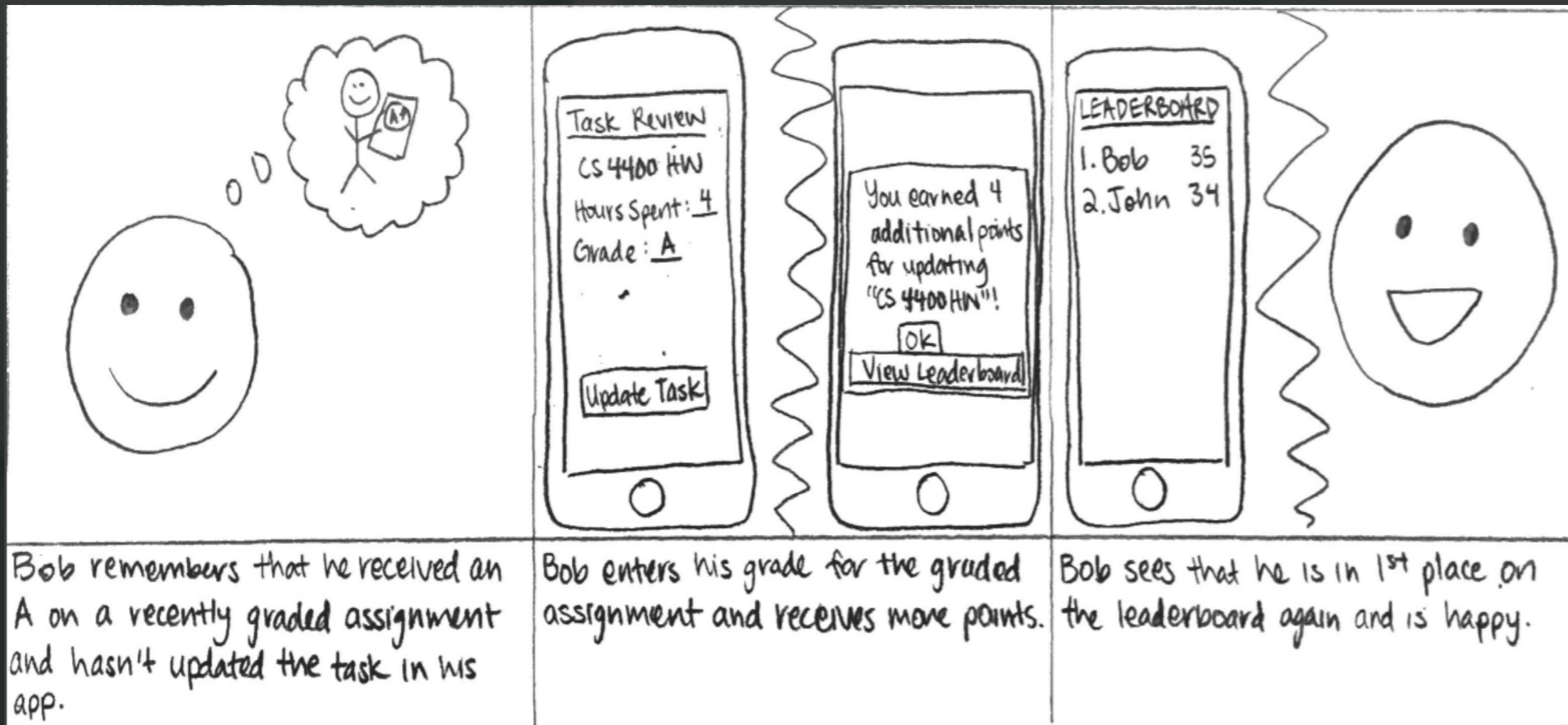
STORYBOARD 2

Finding an incentive



STORYBOARD 2

Finding an incentive ... continued



SUMMARY

- ▶ Users don't want another intrusive time tracker
 - ▶ This went against our intuition
- ▶ The target user needs to decide the outcome
- ▶ Participants are the greatest source of inspiration
 - ▶ Asking our participants questions, helped us understand the implementation

THANK YOU!!

ANY QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

WORKS CITED

- ▶ SULLIVAN, BOB. "Students Can't Resist Distraction for Two Minutes ... and Neither Can You." *NBC News*. N.p., 18 May 2013. Web. 17 Oct. 2016.

