Exploring Design Probes to Support Student Documentation Practices During Remote Learning

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Motivations

1 Documentation plays a **vital role** in scaffolding reflective practices

2 What are the **student experiences and perspectives** on documentation?

3 How can we continue to support documentation practices for students as they transition to **remote learning**?

Methods

- Piloted week long **design probe** (Gaver, B., Dunne, T., & Pacenti, E. (1999). Design: cultural probes. interactions, 6(1), 21-29)

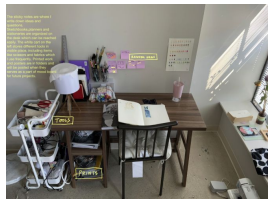Day 1 — What are the conditions of your workspace? — *photos and annotations*

Day 2 — What are your perceptions and attitudes on documentation? — *concept mapping*

Day 3 — What does your documentation journey look like in a project? — *diagramming and noting*

Day 4 — What are the documentation values and incentives? — *listing and rating*

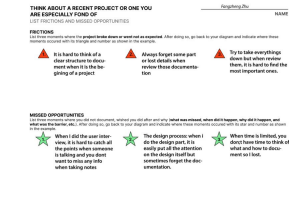Day 5 — What did you learn about yourself from these activities? — *debriefing interview*
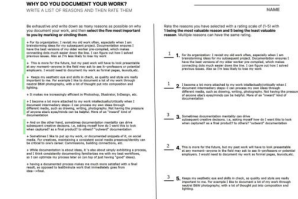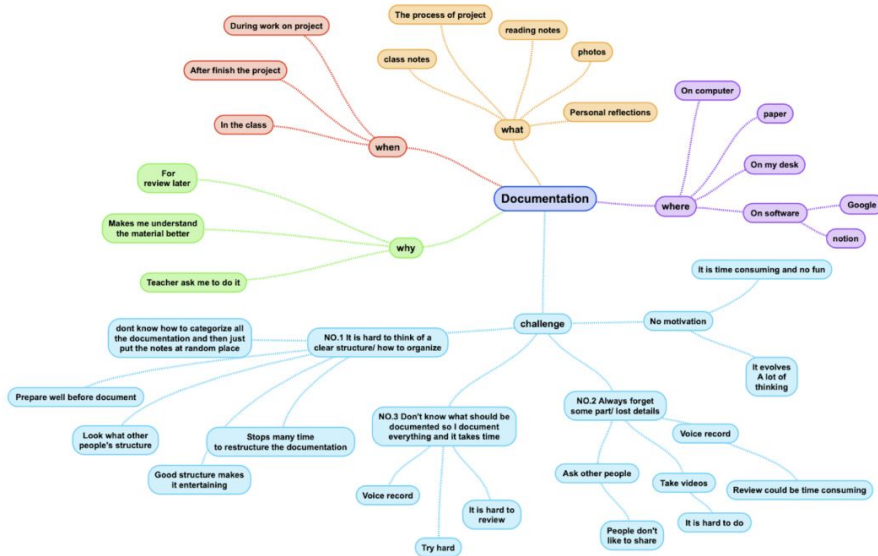
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3.1	Day 3.2	Day 4

Methods

- Identified analysis strategies to **code and synthesize** insights from the design probes activities

Methods

Day 2 — Concept Mapping

Day 3 — Diagram Journey

Results

- **Some thematic areas from the analysis:**

  - Documentation is a **memory and curation tool**

  - When students document intermediary steps, they become more **intellectually and critically** attached to their work

  - How can we shift towards more **personal growth** where students are documenting more for **the self**?

- **Key pain points:**

  - Students see documentation as a form of **self-identity** where they feel **vulnerability and fear** of capturing something that is not 'good'

  - **The lack of dedicated time** is one of the main reasons that prevents good documentation habits

  - Documentation can quickly become a challenge as the way it is being **stored, organized, and managed** can become messy and discouraging to go through

Conclusion

- **Continuing in the Fall to further explore insights developed and apply them to future research**

  - Currently a **pilot study** to test the methods for Fall deployment with IDEATE students

  - Designing **smart toolkits** for students in Physical Computing to help prompt documentation and reflection at different moments

- How can IoT devices/digital tools be designed to encourage students to go through the process of **noticing, articulating, reflecting, and critiquing** in their documentation journey?