For this assignment you will have to run a mini contextual inquiry. The User Research readings elaborate on what is involved in a contextual inquiry. A contextual inquiry involves observing someone doing a task to understand their process and challenges. **It is important that you are observing the task in the person's natural environment, with minimal** **interference (**as much as that is possible). For this assignment you will have to observe someone in person (e.g. at home) or in the digital environment. We ask that you pick a task and a person performing that task and you conduct a contextual inquiry. Here is what we expect you to do:

1. Imagine you are part of a team designing a tool that requires you to do a contextual inquiry. Describe what type of tool you might want to designing.

In you assignment, you should specify: what is the problem you are trying to solve, why it is a problem, and for whom it is a problem.

Here are some examples you might consider:

* a tool that helps your parents or siblings in cooking (be specific about what the tool might support: making a recipe they don't know how to make, cooking faster because they are running out of time, supporting them in making healthier foods, making cooking more pleasant because it might feel like a chore right now, etc)
* A tool that helps your friend be a better videogame player (be specific about the task that your friend is trying to achieve, in what ways they want to become a better player, faster, savvier, accessing game features more effectively, etc)
* A tool that helps people drive more safely
* A tool that supports choosing what movie to watch tonight
* A redesign of an existing tool (an improvement or redesign of Microsoft Word, Adobe products, etc)
* <pick your choice of a tool, it can be any domain, if you are unsure, message the teaching staff>

2. Pick the task that you want to understand more about and a person who will be doing this task. You are trying to watch your user doing  a task that is relevant to the problem you are trying to solve.

In your assignment you should specify:

* what is the task you will be observing,
* why is it important to observe the person doing this task (e.g. how will the information from what you are observing help you decide how to solve the problem),
* what you hope to learn by observing them,
* who you are observing,
* why is the person you are observing the right person to learn about how people execute the task you are interested in (e.g. if you are designing for busy adults who don't have time to cook, you might choose another adult in your household who cooks because they are representative of the busy adult who might not have time for cooking)

3. Write an observation plan, before doing your observation. Specify when you are planning to observe the person, and write at least 3 follow up questions you think you might want to ask them (it is ok if these change when you do your observation).

4. Conduct your observation of the person doing the task. The task should be at least 15 minutes (e.g. cooking a recipe, looking for a recipe, creating a ppt/keynote presentation, editing an image, playing a game, driving, doing groceries, etc). As the person is conducting the task, make notes about what the person's process is: how are they accomplishing the task in detail, what are the steps they are taking to accomplish the task. Ask the person is doing the task make sure to ask them at least 3 follow up questions to understand **why** they are doing the task in the way you are observing, or to confirm what you are seeing. Try to capture the challenges people encounter in accomplishing the task (they might not have any, but you should look for the challenges).

5. Write notes from your observation. Your notes should include:

* Write how you conducted the observation (if it ended up being different than your intended plan)
* Write about context. where the task is done and how (on the couch, next to the kitchen counter, etc)
* Write about concrete, not abstract data (e.g. the person opened 10 recipes and went back and forth)
* What is an example where you interrupted the flow of the task by asking your question? if any
* What did you learn about the person's process (and how they do things)
* What did you learn about any challenges the person is encountering
* At least 3 questions you ended up asking the person during the observation (or at the end)
* What you learned from the person that surprised you in the observation you did

6. Write at least one thing you would do differently if you were to conduct an observation with your participant again.

Submit your report organized based on the 6 points above.

