


Guidance for Jackie's Challenge!

The following is an essential guide for an "Innovation Sprint". This is a great technique to learn for any project you are putting together. Feel free to apply these elements to your "My Plate" prototype.

Phase 1: Define the Challenge (Understand & Align)


 **Objective:** Establish a shared understanding of the problem and desired outcomes.

 **Steps:**

- 1. Clarify the Sprint Goal**
 - What challenge are we solving? (Frame it as a question: *How might we...?*)
 - Define success criteria.
 - Set ground rules for collaboration if you are working in a team.
- 2. Understand the Problem Context**
 - Review relevant data, trends, or user research.
 - Define your end user- it can be a specific use case.
 - Conduct stakeholder mapping (who is affected, and what are their needs?).
- 3. Define Constraints & Opportunities**
 - Identify barriers and limitations.
 - Pinpoint key opportunities to explore.

 **Deliverable:** A clearly defined problem statement and sprint goal.

Phase 2: Generate Ideas (Diverge & Explore)

 **Objective:** Encourage creativity and explore multiple solutions.


 **Steps:**

- 1. Brainstorming Session**
 - Use techniques like **Crazy 8s**, **Mind Mapping**, or **SCAMPER** or just brain dump with a notebook and markers or a Miro.
 - Encourage quantity over quality—no idea is too big or too small.
- 2. Idea Clustering & Theming**
 - Group similar ideas into categories.
 - Identify common patterns and themes.
- 3. Dot Voting for Prioritization**

- Each participant gets a set number of votes to highlight the most promising ideas- if you are working in pairs or a group.

 **Deliverable:** A list of top-voted innovative ideas.

Phase 3: Prototype & Test (Converge & Create)

 **Objective:** Quickly turn top ideas into tangible solutions.

 **Steps:**

1. Sketch the Solution

- Create simple wireframes, concept sketches, or process flows.
- Storyboarding can be used to visualize how the idea works, using PowerPoint or a platform that is comfortable for you.

2. Build a Low-Fidelity Prototype


- Develop a rough, quick version of the solution (paper prototype, digital mockup, role-playing).
- Focus on core functionality, not perfection.

3. Test with a Small Group

- Gather initial feedback from potential users or stakeholders.
- Observe reactions, gather insights, and refine the prototype.

 **Deliverable:** A working prototype with preliminary feedback.

Phase 4: Refine & Validate

 **Objective:** Improve the prototype based on honest feedback.

 **Steps:**

1. Analyze Feedback & Identify Key Learnings


- What worked well?
- What needs improvement?
- What unexpected insights emerged?

2. Iterate & Enhance the Prototype

- Adjust based on feedback (modify design, add features, simplify processes).
- Conduct another round of quick testing if time allows.


 **Deliverable:** A refined prototype ready for final validation.

Phase 5: Present & Plan Next Steps





 **Objective:** Share findings, align stakeholders, and establish an action plan.

Steps:

1. **Prepare a Short Presentation**
 - Showcase the challenge, solution, and testing insights.
 - Highlight the value and feasibility of the innovation.
2. **Define Implementation Steps**
 - Identify key next steps, responsibilities, and timelines.
 - Identify who key stakeholders are for buy-in for execution.
3. **Celebrate & Reflect**
 - Recognize the team's contributions- or celebrate your own journey!
 - Submit your entry!!

 **Deliverable:** A validated solution with a roadmap for implementation.

Tips for a Successful Innovation Sprint

-  **Keep it time-boxed** – Set strict deadlines for milestones to maintain momentum.
-  **Encourage diverse perspectives** – Involve people from different departments or backgrounds.
-  **Emphasize user needs** – Always focus on what delivers the most value.
-  **Test early and often** – Avoid over-engineering before getting feedback.

We will review these steps and methodologies at the Design Workshop on March 3rd, 2025, at 3:00 pm, Jaharis 254. Join us!