

AI App Ideator - Quick Start Guide

From Idea to Working App in 2 Hours

What Is This?

AI App Ideator helps you turn observations into working app prototypes using only Poe - no coding required, no external accounts needed.

Perfect for: Presidential AI Challenge participants, educators, entrepreneurs, and anyone with an idea

The 3-Step Process

1. EXPLORE (30-45 min) → 2. DESIGN (45-60 min) → 3. BUILD (15-30 min)

Talk about your idea

Create specifications

Generate prototype

Getting Started

First Time User?

1. **Click "Start New Idea"** on the landing page
2. **Fill in Step 1:**
 - Select your role (educator, entrepreneur, etc.)
 - Choose app category
 - **Describe your observation** - just state what you've noticed, no need to propose solutions
 - Select AI focus (or choose "auto-detect")
3. **Not sure what to enter?** Click "Try Example Scenarios" to see real examples

Step-by-Step Walkthrough

STEP 1: Define Your Vision (5 minutes)

What to enter:

-  "Teachers spend too much time collecting graphics for classroom activities"
-  "Kids get so much candy at parades"
-  "Our school needs a playground and funding strategies"

Avoid:

-  Technical solutions ("Build an app that uses AI to...")
-  Vague ideas ("Make education better")

Pro tip: Think "coffeeshop conversation" - what have you observed that you'd discuss with friends?

STEP 2: Customize Your Framework (10 minutes)

The AI generates a development framework. You can:

- **Review** the 6 sections:
 - Key Questions to Explore
 - Development Approach
 - Tools & Resources
 - AI Integration Strategy
 - Exploration Framework
 - Market & Business Model
- **Customize** any section by clicking the edit button
- **Chat with AI** to refine sections interactively

When ready: Click "Start Interactive Chat!"

STEP 3: Choose Your Path

You have 4 options:

Option	Best For	Time
Start Exploration	First-time users who want guidance	30-60 min
View & Copy Framework	Using with other AI tools	5 min
Design App Specs First	Detailed planning before building	45 min
Build App Immediately	Quick prototyping	15 min

Two Ways to Build

Option A: Guided Exploration (Recommended)

1. Click "Start Exploration"
2. Chat naturally with your AI mentor
3. When ready, click **"Let's Draft an App"** to design specs

4. Click "**Build the App**" when specifications are complete
5. App-Creator generates your prototype

Option B: Quick Build

1. Click "Build App Immediately"
2. AI sends your context to App-Creator
3. Get working prototype in minutes
4. Iterate and refine

Key Features

Smart Context Recovery

Returning to continue work? Click "Continue Previous Idea" - AI analyzes your conversation history and picks up exactly where you left off.

Manual Mode

Prefer chatting in main Poe interface? Click "Manual Mode" button in header to continue development outside the Canvas.

Document Upload (Optional)

Add PDFs, DOCs, or TXT files in Step 1 to provide additional context (requirements docs, research, etc.)

Test Scenarios

Not sure where to start? Use built-in test scenarios to see how simple observations become apps.

Understanding the Bots

Claude-Sonnet-4 (Your Mentor)

- Handles exploration and planning
- Creates specifications and frameworks
- Guides your thinking through structured questions
- **Cannot** write code - directs you to App-Creator instead

App-Creator (The Builder)

- Generates actual working apps
- Takes specifications from Claude
- Creates HTML/CSS/JavaScript prototypes
- **Only** gets involved when you click "Build the App" button

Llama-4-Maverick (The Smart Router)

- Analyzes your conversation history automatically
- Determines where you are in the development process
- Routes you to the right step when you "Continue Previous Idea"
- Repairs malformed JSON if framework generation has issues
- **Behind the scenes** - you don't interact directly

Reka (The Research Assistant)

- Called for specific local/regional information research
- Helps when your app idea relates to specific locations
- Provides context about communities, regions, or local issues
- **Example:** Claude might say "I can call @reka to research specific local information about [your area]"

How the Bots Work Together

Key Point: Most bot coordination happens automatically. You mainly interact with Claude, who orchestrates the other bots as needed.

When Each Bot Gets Involved

Scenario	Bot Used	How It Happens
You click "Continue Previous Idea"	Llama-4-Maverick	Automatically analyzes conversation
Framework generation fails	Llama-4-Maverick	Tries to repair JSON errors
App idea mentions specific location	Reka	Claude may offer to call Reka
You need local/regional research	Reka	Say "Can you research [location]?"
Ready to build prototype	App-Creator	Click "Build the App" button
All other interactions	Claude-Sonnet-4	Your main mentor throughout

Common Workflows

Workflow 1: Educator with Classroom Problem

1. Start New Idea
2. Describe classroom observation

3. Explore with AI mentor (30 min)
4. Draft specifications (30 min)
5. Build prototype
6. Test with students
7. Iterate

Workflow 2: Presidential AI Challenge Entry

1. Start New Idea
2. Upload any background docs
3. Thorough exploration (60 min)
4. Detailed specifications (45 min)
5. Build and refine prototype
6. Export framework for submission

Workflow 3: Quick Prototype for Validation

1. Start New Idea
2. Enter observation
3. Skip to "Build App Immediately"
4. Get prototype in 15 minutes
5. Test with users
6. Return to refine

Tips for Success

Do:

- Start with observations, not solutions
- Focus on Poe-only solutions (no external APIs)
- One conversation = one app idea
- Use "Continue Previous Idea" to resume work
- Chat naturally - the AI understands context
- Iterate quickly - prototypes take minutes

✗ Don't:

- Suggest external surveys or research
- Assume access to external accounts/services
- Mix multiple app ideas in one conversation
- Skip the exploration phase (unless testing)
- Expect Claude to write code (that's App-Creator's job)

Troubleshooting

⚠ **This app is a work in progress!** You may encounter bugs or unexpected behavior. Please report any issues using the chat widget or contact form at <https://www.quizzglass.com> - your feedback helps us improve the tool for everyone.

Common Issues & Solutions

"AI seems confused about what we're building"

Solution:

- Call @Llama-4-Maverick in the chat to analyze full conversation context
- Or restart: Click "Continue Previous Idea" from the home screen to let AI re-analyze your progress
- If still confused, start fresh: New Chat (mobile: menu → "New Chat" | desktop: "+" in sidebar)

"Framework generation failed"

Solutions:

- Click "**Try Again**" to regenerate
- Click "**Use Default Framework**" to continue with generic template
- You can always customize any section manually using the edit buttons
- If problem persists, report it at <https://www.quizzglass.com>

"Build button doesn't work" or "Nothing happens when I click buttons"

Solutions:

- Make sure you're in Step 3 or Step 4
- Check that specifications are complete (framework should be visible)
- Try **Manual Mode** as alternative (button in header)
- Refresh the page and try again
- Report the issue at <https://www.quizzglass.com> with details about which button failed

"Chat shows only my messages - no AI responses"

Problem: The bot isn't automatically responding to your messages.

Solution - Call the bot by name:

- Start each message with @Claude-Sonnet-4 (or whichever bot you need)
- Example: @Claude-Sonnet-4 Can you help me explore my app idea about classroom organization?
- The @botname mention sends the response to the chat window
- This is especially important in Manual Mode

Which bot to call:

- @Claude-Sonnet-4 - For exploration, planning, and specifications
- @App-Creator - Only when ready to build actual code
- @Llama-4-Maverick - To analyze conversation context
- @reka - For location/regional research

"Want to start over with a new idea"

Solution:

- **Important:** One conversation = one app idea
- Start a fresh conversation for each new concept
- **Mobile:** Tap menu button → select "New Chat"
- **Desktop:** Click "+" button in sidebar
- Don't try to develop multiple apps in the same conversation

"Document upload not working"

Solutions:

- Check file size (max 10MB per file)
- Verify file type: PDF, DOC, DOCX, or TXT only
- Try uploading one file at a time
- If issue persists, paste key excerpts into the vision/description field instead
- Report persistent issues at <https://www.quizzglass.com>

"Can't find where I left off"

Solutions:

- Use "**Continue Previous Idea**" from home screen
- Llama-4-Maverick will analyze your history automatically
- If routing seems wrong, manually navigate using the step indicators at top
- In Manual Mode, ask: @Claude-Sonnet-4 Can you summarize where we are in our app development?

"Routing sent me to the wrong step"

Solutions:

- Use the clickable step indicators (1, 2, 3) at top to manually navigate
- Click directly on the step number/label you want
- The routing is smart but not perfect - manual navigation always works
- Report routing errors at <https://www.quizzglass.com> so we can improve

"Error messages or strange behavior"

Solutions:

- Take a screenshot if possible
- Note what you were trying to do when the error occurred
- Try refreshing the page
- Report the issue at <https://www.quizzglass.com> with:
 - Description of what happened
 - What you were trying to do
 - Screenshot if available
 - Which browser you're using

Manual Bot Calling Guide

If automatic bot responses aren't working, you can manually call bots:

Basic Format

`@BotName Your message here`

Examples

For exploration and planning:

`@Claude-Sonnet-4 I have an idea about helping teachers organize classroom supplies. Can we explore this?`

For building an app:

`@App-Creator Based on the specifications Claude created, please build a prototype app for classroom supply organization.`

For context analysis:

`@Llama-4-Maverick Can you analyze our conversation and tell me where we are in the development process?`

For local research:

@reka Can you research information about Hampshire County, WV schools and their current supply management approaches?

When to Use Manual Calling

- Chat window shows your messages but no AI responses
- Automatic bot assignment didn't work during setup
- Switching between bots in same conversation
- Manual Mode is active
- Troubleshooting conversation flow issues

Getting Human Help

Hampshire County Volunteers (Free Support!)

Online Help:

- Visit: <https://www.quizzglass.com>
- Use chat widget for quick questions
- Fill out contact form for detailed help
- Subscribe to mailing list for updates

In-Person Help:

- ☕ **Coffeeshop Coaching Sessions** in Romney, WV
- Watch a complete demo: idea to working app in 15 minutes
- Face-to-face support in WV/MD/VA/DC area
- Perfect for Presidential AI Challenge participants

When to Seek Help:

- You're stuck and frustrated after multiple attempts
- Framework generation keeps failing
- You have a great idea but don't know where to start
- You want feedback before submitting to the Challenge
- You'd like to see the process demonstrated

What Volunteers Can Help With:

- Guided walkthrough of the entire process
- Brainstorming app ideas based on your community
- Troubleshooting technical issues
- Refining your Presidential AI Challenge entry
- Understanding how to use the tools effectively

Browser Compatibility

Best Experience:

- Chrome (recommended)
- Safari
- Firefox
- Edge

Known Issues:

- Older browsers may have display problems
- Mobile browsers work but desktop is recommended for full features
- If experiencing issues, try a different browser

Reporting Bugs & Feature Requests

Help us improve! Report issues at: <https://www.quizzglass.com>

What to include:

1. **What happened** - Describe the problem
2. **What you expected** - What should have happened
3. **Steps to reproduce** - How can we recreate the issue?
4. **Screenshots** - If applicable
5. **Browser/device** - What you're using

Your feedback matters! Every bug report helps make this tool better for the entire community.

Known Limitations

- Works only within Poe ecosystem (by design)
- Requires active internet connection
- One app idea per conversation (start new chat for new ideas)
- Framework generation may occasionally fail (use default or retry)
- Bot responses may be delayed during high usage
- Some mobile features limited compared to desktop

Still Need Help?

1. **Check the FAQ** at <https://www.quizzglass.com>
2. **Watch tutorial videos** (links on Resources page)
3. **Contact Hampshire County volunteers** via chat or form
4. **Schedule a coffeeshop coaching session** in Romney, WV
5. **Join the mailing list** for tips and updates

Remember: The Hampshire County community is here to help you succeed in the Presidential AI Challenge!

Having technical issues? Don't struggle alone - reach out at <https://www.quizzglass.com>

Getting Help

In-App Support

- Stuck? Hampshire County volunteers offer free support: <https://www.quizzglass.com/>
- Face-to-face help available in WV/MD/VA/DC area
- Remote coaching for nationwide participants

Community

- Presidential AI Challenge: <https://orise.orau.gov/ai-challenge/>
- Share successes and get feedback from volunteers

Next Steps

After your first app:

1. Test with real users
2. Iterate based on feedback
3. Refine specifications
4. Rebuild with improvements
5. Consider submitting to Presidential AI Challenge

Ready to build something amazing?

Click "Start New Idea" and let's turn your observation into reality!

Last updated: October 2025 | Built for Presidential AI Challenge participants