

Category	1 (lowest)	2	3	4	5 (highest)
Innovation & Novelty How creative, original, and disruptive is the idea? Does it solve a problem in a fresh way?	A direct clone of an existing popular app or product with no unique additions or original thought.	A very common hackathon idea (e.g., a basic habit tracker or generic mood journal) with minor aesthetic changes.	Takes an existing solution or concept and applies an interesting new angle or feature that improves it.	A highly fresh, distinct concept that tackles a prominent problem from a unique, unexpected perspective.	A completely unique, disruptive approach that creates an entirely new way to look at the problem.
UI/UX & Accessibility Visual design quality, ease of navigation, intuitive user flows, and adherence to accessibility standards.	Broken layout, unreadable contrast, chaotic navigation, or completely inaccessible to assistive technologies.	Functional with confusing user flows, unpolished visual hierarchies, or obvious text alignment/sizing oversights.	Simple and functional layout using standard design system elements properly; easy to navigate, though visually uninspired.	Polished, high-quality design aesthetic, seamless user journeys, and intentional accessibility choices (clear focus states, screen-reader friendly).	Stunning, intuitive, and universally accessible interface. Delights the user through frictionless UX while perfectly accommodating diverse accessibility needs.