



DESIGN THINKING MINDSET / DISCOVER PHASE / RESEARCH

# Prepare for User Interviews

Brainstorm upcoming interview questions with your team members and create an interview script.

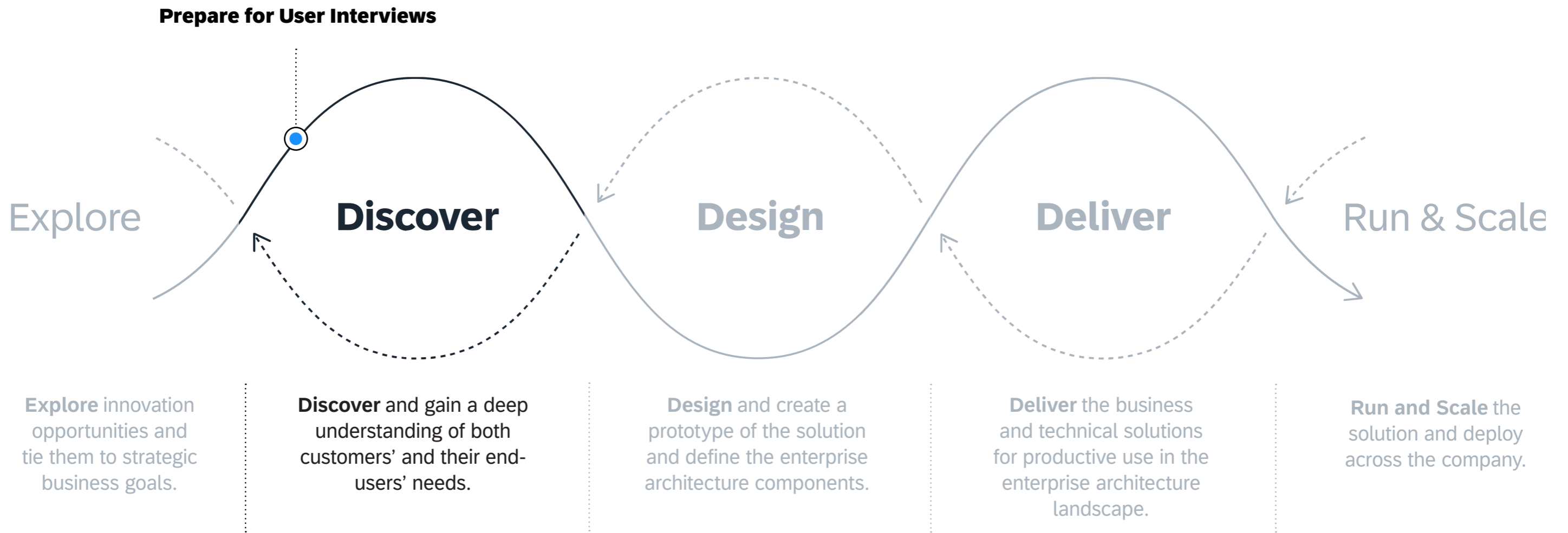
# Why To Prepare for User Interviews

The “Interview Preparation Guide” helps your team brainstorm questions and create an interview script. This guide helps your team establish alignment and consistency on what to cover during interviews.



# When To Prepare for User Interviews

We use the Interview Preparation Guide to get ready for user interviews during Field Research in the Discover Phase.



Learn more about SAP's Human-Centered Approach to Innovation: <https://apphaus.sap.com/approach>

# How To

## Prepare for User Interviews



Duration  
**45 - 60 Minutes**



Participation  
**5 - 6 People**



Roles  
**Designers, Business Leads**

### Steps

- 1 Explain the interview arc to the team members: an interview is structured like a conversation with a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- 2 Run a silent brainstorming session on what questions to ask to participants for 'Introductions', 'Build Rapport', 'Evoke Stories', 'Explore Emotions' and 'Closing Thoughts'.
- 3 Immediately after placing their questions on sticky notes along the interview arc, each participant should give a brief explanation.
- 4 Once all participants have moved their questions to the timeline, vote for the questions that should be part of the interview guide.

### Expert Tips

Before the brainstorming starts, explain how to formulate interview questions. For example:

Ask open-ended questions, such as "W-questions" — who, what, when, where, and why.

Avoid leading questions, such as "Do you like your current health insurance?"

If necessary, help the participants reformulate questions.

# Example

## Interview Preparation Guide

**Introduction  
of yourself**

**Introduction  
of project**

**Build rapport**

**Evoke stories**

**Explore emotions**

**Question  
statements**

**Thanks  
& wrap-up**

Please tell me  
about your main  
responsibilities.

Can you tell us step  
by step how you  
go about...  
[please specify]?

How was it the last  
time when you had  
to do this task?

Please tell us more  
about...[please  
specify]?

Do you remember  
what really went  
wrong last time?

What were the  
consequences of  
...[please specify]?

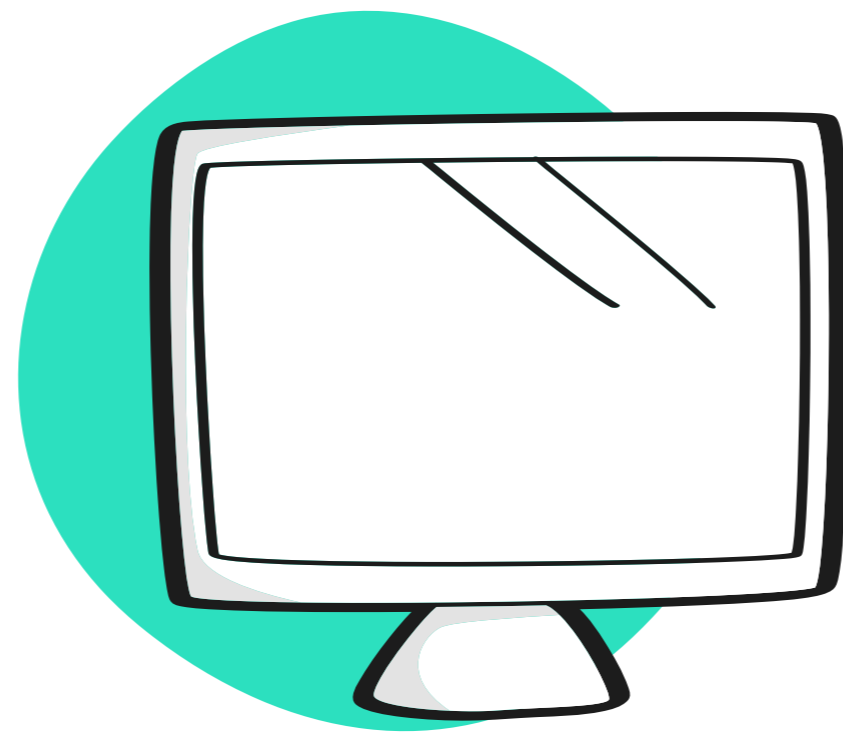
What did you feel  
when you learned  
that ...[please  
specify]??

What would the  
planned solution  
mean to you?

Could you please  
explain again...  
[please specify]?

[Follow up question]  
...[please specify]?

TIME



# Virtual Collaboration Template

# MURAL Template

## Prepare for User Interviews

### Instructions

As preparation for an end-user interview you need to define which questions you would like to ask. This template will help you to identify those questions.

**Time Needed**  
Ca. 30-45 min

**Participants**  
5 - 6, min 2

**How to use**  
Each participant starts with a silent 5 min braindump of possible questions. Right after, each participant places his/her post-its along the interview timeline while explaining briefly the questions.

Once all participants have moved their questions to the timeline, vote for the questions that shall be part of the interview guide.

## Interview Guide

Prepare your upcoming user research activities and create an interview guide.

**1. Silent Braindump (5min)**  
Formulate interview questions for an interview guide.

**2. Collect and Structure all Questions (15min)**  
Place your questions below the time line.

[Name Participant 01]  
[Name Participant 02]  
[Name Participant 03]  
[Name Participant 04]

Examples:

Access the MURAL template\*: <https://app.mural.co/template/732e1d75-6903-4ce6-ab36-79d3ac76120b/e84ef78f-2988-4d81-9a7f-bf1483b8bdcc>

\*Registration required