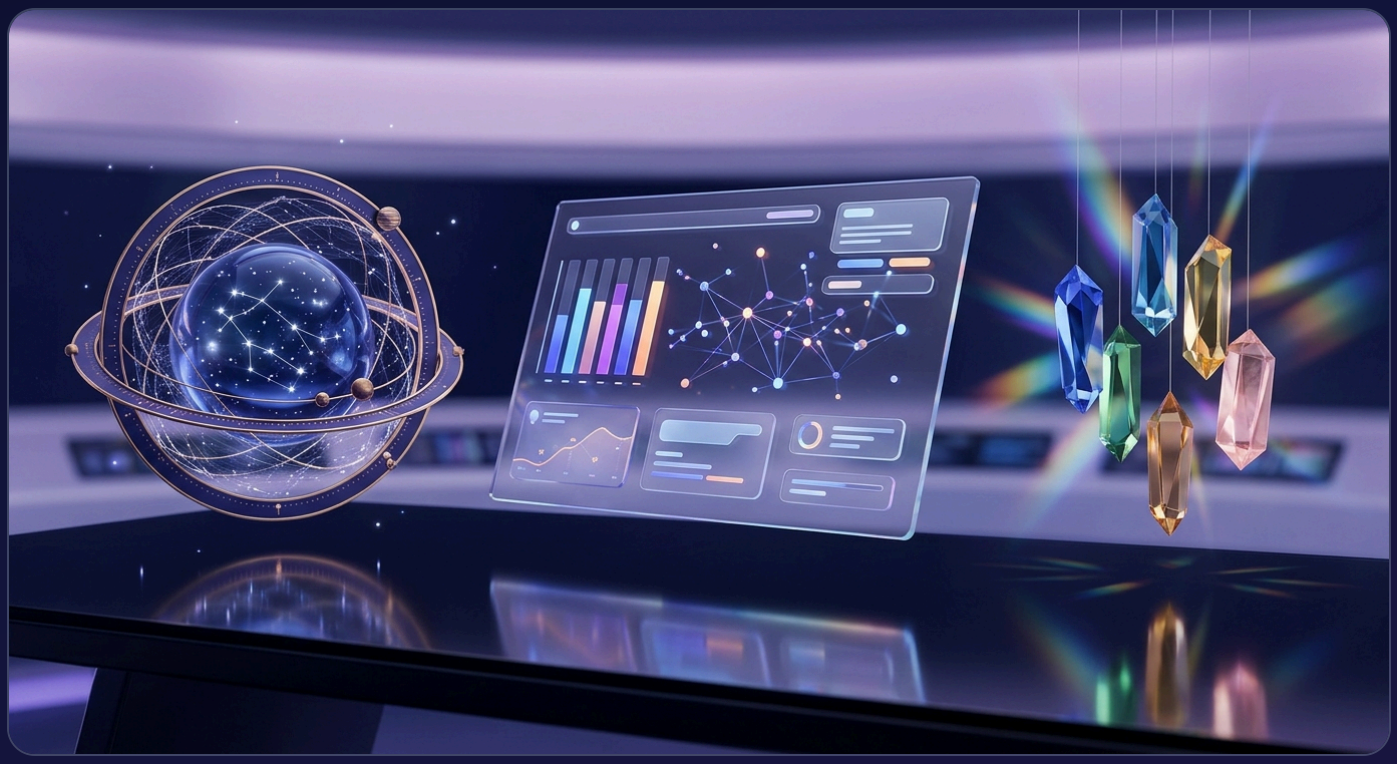
GOOGLE AI ULTRA CREATIVE STUDIO SERIES • LATE 2026 EDITION

Mastering Deep Research, Canvas & Gems

The complete visual handbook to Google Gemini's flagship power trio—autonomous multi-source research reports, split-screen writing & live interactive apps, and stackable Gemini Skills (plus Workspace Gems).

Autonomous Deep Research | Private Uploads + Live Web | Split-Screen Gemini Canvas | "Add Gemini Features" Apps | Stackable Skills (/skill-name) & Gems | Deep Think & Scheduled Actions



Hours of Research in Minutes

Approve a custom Research Plan, blend Google Drive + Gmail + hundreds of websites, and get a cited executive dossier.

From Blank Page to Live App

Co-write docs with Tone & Length sliders or transform any report into a live web dashboard, infographic, or quiz in Canvas.

Stackable AI Specialists

Invoke portable `SKILL.md` Skills inline via `/skill-name` (or Workspace Gems in Settings) grounded in live Google Docs.

Beyond Chat: How Gemini's Power Trio Works Together

Treating **Google Gemini** (`gemini.google.com`) like a simple question-and-answer box leaves 80% of its power untouched. Inside that single interface live three interconnected studios—**Deep Research**, **Canvas**, and **Skills / Gems**—acting as your research agency, interactive workshop, and reusable staff.

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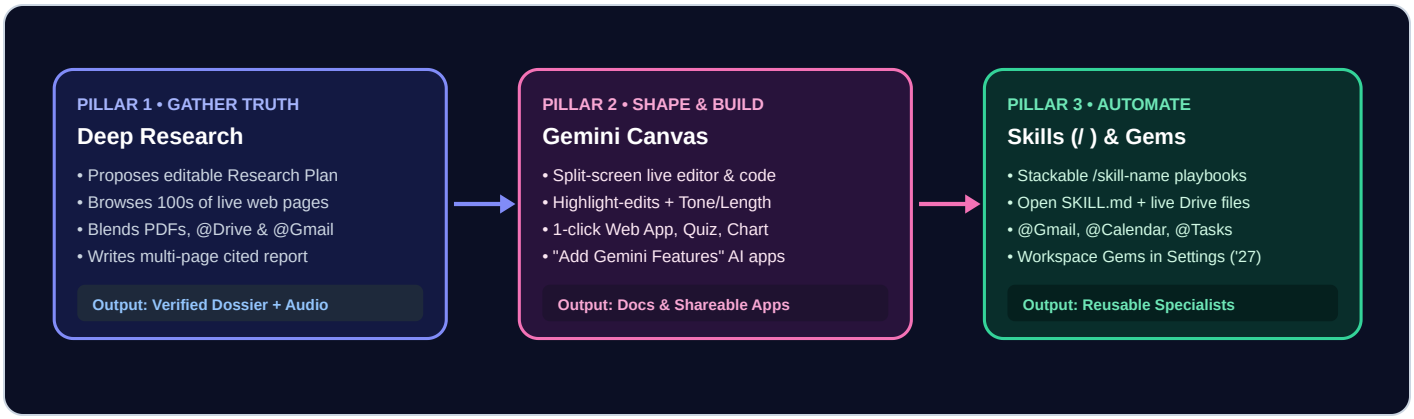
Visualization: The Research → Build → Automate Flywheel



The 5-Second Mode Rule Before You Hit Enter

Need verified facts from dozens of sources? Toggle **Deep Research**. Writing anything longer than two paragraphs or building an interactive visual/tool? Toggle **Canvas**. Repeating a workflow next week? Save it as a portable **Gemini Skill** (`/skill-name`) or Workspace Gem!

What Your Google AI Ultra Plan Unlocks in Gemini

Your **Google AI Ultra** membership upgrades every layer of `gemini.google.com` and the Gemini mobile app—giving you priority access to Google's deepest reasoning engine, highest daily Deep Research ceilings, massive memory, and background automation.

Choosing the Right Gemini Engine for the Job

Model / Mode	Response Speed	Best Use Cases & Why You Pick It
Flash / Fast	Instant (1–2s)	Quick translations, rapid brainstorming lists, summarizing short emails, and fast everyday mobile voice checks.
Pro / Gemini 4 (Workhorse)	Fast (3–8s)	Your daily driver (powered by Gemini 4 Hydrogen / Neon on Pro & Ultra) for **Canvas** apps, spreadsheets, and stacking **Skills**.
Deep Think AI ULTRA EXCLUSIVE	Deliberate (30s–3m)	Explores parallel reasoning paths and self-verifies logic before answering. Built for hard math proofs, system architecture trade-offs, subtle code bugs, and multi-constraint strategy.
Deep Research HIGHEST ULTRA QUOTA	Autonomous (3–8m)	Multi-step agent that browses hundreds of websites + your Drive/Gmail and compiles an exhaustive, cited multi-page report in the background.

3 Everyday AI Ultra Multipliers Most Users Miss

1 1M+ Token Context

Drop entire 1,500-page PDF bundles, multi-tab financial workbooks, hour-long videos, or whole code repositories into a single prompt without chopping files into pieces.

2 Mobile Gemini Live

Open the Gemini phone app, invoke any **Skill** (`/`) or Workspace Gem, tap **Live**, and turn on camera or screen share to brainstorm out loud while pointing at slides or objects.

3 Scheduled Actions & Tasks

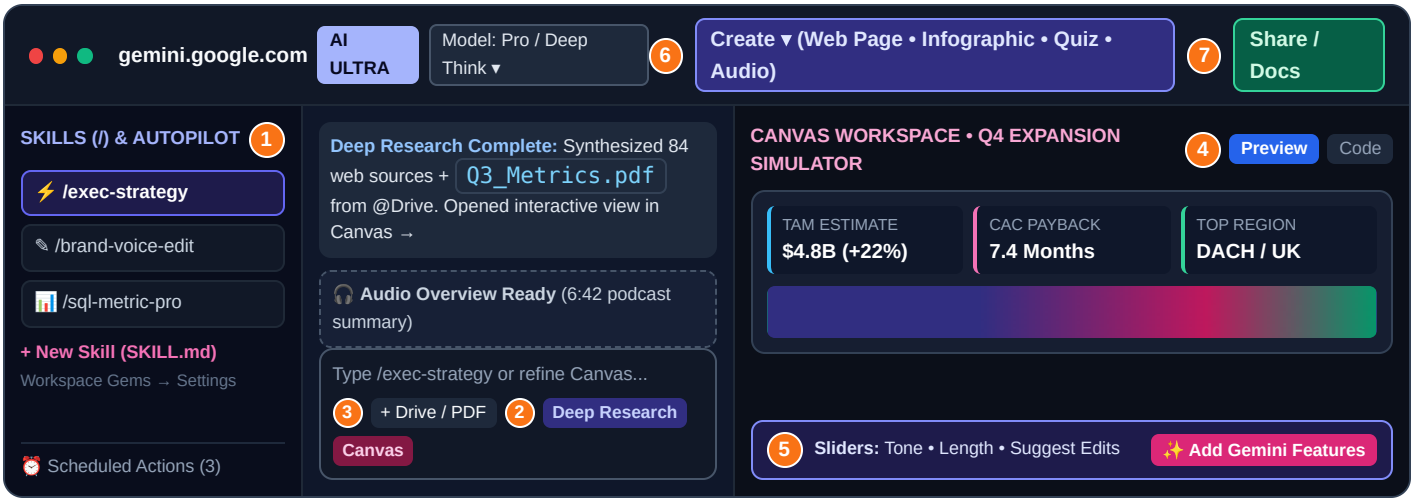
Put prompts on autopilot (also rolling out as **Tasks / Gemini Spark**)! Say: *"Every weekday at 7:30 AM, check @Calendar and unread @Gmail VIP threads for a 5-bullet brief."* Manage in **Settings → Scheduled actions**.

Crystal-Clear Distinction: "Deep Research" Goes Wide • "Deep Think" Goes Deep

Use **Deep Research** when you need Gemini to go out and *gather* external facts, competitor pricing, academic papers, and internal Drive docs. Switch to **Deep Think** when all the facts are already in front of you, and you need genius-level *deduction, math, architecture, or strategic game theory*.

The Gemini Power Workspace: Annotated Visual Tour

Once you activate **Canvas** or open a **Deep Research** report, Gemini transforms from a single column into a full dual-pane production studio. Master these 7 numbered controls to fly through any project.



Numbered Interface Reference

1 **Skills (`/`), Gems & Autopilot:** Invoke stackable `/skill-name` Skills inline (personal 18+ Gems went read-only Nov 17, 2026; Workspace Gems moved to Settings until 2027) or manage *Scheduled Actions*.

2 **Tool Pill Bar:** Activate **Deep Research**, **Canvas**, or **Deep Think** right below your prompt box before sending a message.

3 `+` **Grounding Menu:** Attach local PDFs, CSVs, code folders, or pull live files straight from **Google Drive**, **Docs**, and **Gmail**.

4 **Canvas Preview / Code Toggle:** Edit formatted prose directly, or flip seamlessly between a live interactive web app and its underlying HTML/React code.

5 **Canvas Polish Dock & AI Button:** Adjust document *Length* and *Tone* via sliders, request inline *Suggested Edits*, or click **Add Gemini Features** to wire live AI into your app!

6 `Create` **Transformation Menu:** Convert any report or text inside Canvas into an interactive **Web Page**, **Infographic**, **Quiz**, **Flashcards**, or **Audio Overview**.

7 **Share & Workspace Export:** Generate a public `g.co/gemini/share` link to your live app, or export formatted reports with citations straight into **Google Docs**.

Mastering Deep Research: Your Autonomous Analyst

Standard AI search skims five snippets and guesses an answer in three seconds. **Gemini Deep Research** works like a dedicated consulting analyst: it designs a multi-point plan, browses hundreds of pages iteratively, cross-checks your private files, and writes a cited executive report while you do other work.



1. PLAN & GROUND: Approve/edit sub-questions + attach Drive/PDFs.

2. ITERATIVE BROWSE: Reads 100+ sites, follows new leads & verifies numbers.

3. DELIVER & REMIX: Cited Google Doc, Canvas dashboard, or Audio podcast!

The 3-Phase Workflow for 10x Better Reports

1 Blend Private + Web

Click **Deep Research**, then hit `+` to attach your own PDFs, spreadsheets, or **Google Drive** docs (or invoke `@Gmail` / `@Drive`). Gemini cross-references your internal numbers against live public competitors!

2 Edit the Plan First!

Before browsing a single URL, Gemini presents a numbered **Research Plan**. Click **Edit plan** to cut basic filler, add exact rival names, or demand pricing tables—*then* click **Start research**.

3 Walk Away & Verify

Watch Gemini's live reasoning drawer as it searches, spots gaps, and runs follow-up queries over 3–8 minutes—or switch tabs freely! Every claim in the finished report carries clickable inline source links.

Pro Move: Never Click "Start Research" Without a 15-Second Plan Audit

By default, AI research plans politely include background history you already know (*"Section 1: What is cloud security?"*). Click **Edit plan** and type: `"Remove introductory definitions. Add a head-to-head table comparing enterprise SSO pricing, SOC2 Type II status, and real user complaints from Reddit/Hacker News in 2025–2026."` That single tweak turns a B+ essay into a C-suite decision brief.

Deep Research Brief Formula & Post-Report Magic

Great Deep Research prompts read like an assignment to a sharp human chief of staff: tell Gemini **what decision you are making**, **what private context you attached**, and **what evidence counts**.

Color-Coded Deep Research Prompt Anatomy

DECISION GOAL PRIVATE UPLOADS HARD CONSTRAINTS SOURCE RULES OUTPUT STRUCTURE

We are deciding whether to expand our B2B SaaS analytics platform into Germany and the UK in Q1. Cross-reference our attached `2026_Product_Spec.pdf` and `@Drive Pricing_Tiers` against the top 6 local European competitors serving 50–500 employee companies. Prioritize 2025–2026 primary pricing pages, EU data-residency regulations, G2/Reddit buyer critiques, and public case studies; flag any unverified estimates explicitly. Deliver an executive recommendation, a feature-and-pricing comparison matrix, top 5 regulatory blockers, and a 90-day go-to-market checklist.

Don't Stop at Reading! 5 One-Click Ways to Remix Any Finished Report

Post-Report Action	Where to Click	What Gemini Builds Instantly
1. Export to Google Docs	Bottom bar → `Export to Docs`	Creates a formatted Google Doc in your Drive with clean H1/H2 headings, native tables, and preserved clickable source footnotes.
2. Podcast Audio Overview	Top right → `Audio Overview`	Two AI hosts synthesize your 15-page dossier into a lively, downloadable 6–8 minute banter-filled briefing you can listen to on a walk.
3. Visual Infographic	Canvas → `Create → Infographic`	Transforms dense findings into a vibrant, scannable visual poster with callout stats, timelines, icons, and color-coded takeaways.
4. Interactive Web Dashboard	Canvas → `Create → Web Page`	Generates a live multi-tab HTML/React microsite with filterable comparison cards, interactive charts, and a shareable URL!
5. Mastery Quiz & Flashcards	Canvas → `Create → Quiz`	Builds an interactive multiple-choice test with instant answer explanations, hints, and score tracking—ideal for certification or pitch prep.

Iterative Follow-Up Trick: Drill Deeper Without Starting Over
After Deep Research delivers its report, your chat remains grounded in everything it just read! Ask follow-ups right below —*"Turn Section 3's pricing table into a weighted scorecard favoring HIPAA compliance"*—or open it in **Canvas** to polish specific paragraphs before sharing.

Gemini Canvas: Co-Writing & Instant Interactive Apps

Standard chat forces you to regenerate an entire 1,500-word draft just to soften paragraph four. Selecting the **Canvas** pill opens a persistent side-by-side studio where you and Gemini edit living documents—or build working web software—in real time.



LEFT • GEMINI CANVAS: Wireframes & prose become live interactive dashboards, sliders & infographics.

RIGHT • CUSTOM GEMS: Specialized AI teammates you can summon right inside Canvas!

Two Superpowers Inside One Workspace

A Surgical Writing & Editing

- **Type & Format Directly:** Click anywhere on the Canvas sheet to type, add headings, bold text, or rearrange bullets like Google Docs.
- **Highlight-to-Edit:** Select *one* sentence and use the floating prompt bubble (*"Make this punchier with active verbs"*)—the other 99% of your document stays untouched!
- **Polish Sliders:** Use the bottom-right dock to slide **Length** (*Shorter ↔ Longer*), shift **Tone** (*Casual ↔ Formal*), or click **Suggest Edits** for margin coaching notes.

B Zero-Setup Vibe Coding

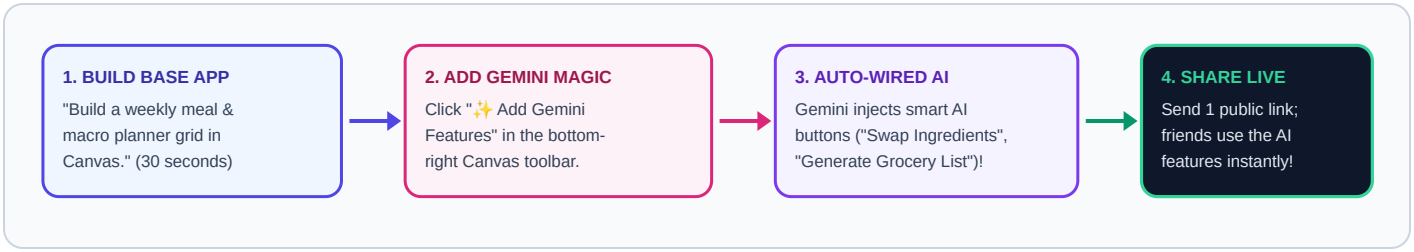
- **Live Rendered Preview:** Ask for an ROI calculator, interactive Kanban board, SVG architecture map, study game, or 3D particle simulation—and play with it immediately in the **Preview** tab!
- **Zero Local Setup:** Canvas renders HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, and Tailwind components straight inside your browser sandbox.
- **Version History Arrows:** Experiment fearlessly—use the `←` / `→` version buttons at the top of Canvas to roll back any code or prose experiment in one click.

How to Vibe-Code Clean Apps on the First Prompt

Describe **3 things**: *(1) Who uses it & why*, *(2) Exact interactive controls* (sliders, tabs, CSV dropzone, dark-mode toggle), and *(3) Visual vibe* (e.g., `"clean slate-and-indigo executive dashboard with large KPI cards and responsive charts"`).

Advanced Canvas: "Add Gemini Features" & Live Sharing

Here is the most underrated feature in all of Google Gemini: Canvas doesn't just build static calculators—clicking ✨ **Add Gemini Features** embeds live Gemini intelligence *inside* the web app you just built, with zero API keys or billing setup!



3 Killer Ideas for AI-Powered Canvas Micro-Apps

1 Deal Objection Coach

Build a flashcard simulator for your sales team where reps type their pitch and click an embedded AI **"Score & Push Back"** button.

2 Dynamic Trip Remixer

Turn a family itinerary into an interactive map card app with a live **"Rainy-Day Backup"** button that rewrites any afternoon on the fly.

3 Pricing What-If Board

Pair revenue sliders with an embedded **"Draft CFO Summary"** button that writes an executive memo from whatever slider values you pick.

Sharing & Graduating Your Canvas Creations

Export / Share Path	When & How to Use It
Public Share Link (`g.co/gemini/share/...`)	Click **Share** → **Share** in the top-right corner of Canvas. Anyone who opens your link sees the live interactive app, quiz, or infographic on desktop or mobile—and can even fork their own copy!
Google Docs / Colab / Classroom	Written drafts export cleanly to **Google Docs**; Python scripts open one-click in **Google Colab**; educators can attach interactive quizzes directly to **Google Classroom**.
Graduate to Google Antigravity	When a single-file Canvas prototype proves popular and needs user login, a database, custom backend APIs, or your own domain, copy the code into **Google Antigravity** to ship a full-stack app.

Building Gemini Skills (`/skill-name`) & Workspace Gems

On **November 17, 2026**, personal (18+) Gems went read-only (removed **Dec 17**, auto-migrated to draft Skills) as Google launched inline, stackable **Gemini Skills** (`SKILL.md` via `/skill-name` or `@skill-name`). Workspace accounts keep Gems under **Settings** until March 2027 (Education: June 2027).

The 4-Pillar Instruction Formula (`SKILL.md` & Gem Blueprint)

1. PERSONA **2. TASK** **3. CONTEXT & KNOWLEDGE** **4. OUTPUT FORMAT**

You are our Principal Product Marketing Editor—sharp, empathetic, allergic to corporate buzzwords. **Whenever I paste rough launch notes or a feature spec, critique weak positioning first, then rewrite it into customer-ready copy.** **Strictly follow tone, banned jargon, and buyer personas inside the attached Drive doc** `Brand_Voice_2026` **and cross-check live tier limits in** `Pricing_Sheet` **.** **Always output: (1) a 3-bullet messaging diagnosis, (2) Headline + Subhead options, and (3) a tight 120-word customer email.**

1 Open `SKILL.md` & Stackability

Modular **Skills** use the portable `SKILL.md` format (up to **100 active Skills**; requires **Keep Activity**). Stack playbooks—like `/brand-voice` + `/clarity-editor` —inside one chat or let Gemini trigger them automatically by description.

2 Drive Sync & 100 MB Migration Cap

Link live **Google Docs & Sheets** or upload up to **100 MB total** per Skill. Before Dec 17, download any Gem files over 100 MB (largest auto-dropped) or unsupported types: audio, video, GitHub files, legacy `.doc/.xls/.ppt` , and `.zip` archives.

Supercharging Skills & Gems with `@Workspace` Extensions & Inline `/`

Both inline Skills and Workspace Gems (under **Settings** until early-mid 2027) reach directly into Connected Apps: reference `@Gmail` , `@Google Calendar` , `@Google Drive` , `@Google Tasks` , or `@Google Keep` in your instructions, and invoke modular `/` triggers inside Docs and Gmail sidebars.

Golden Rule of Skill Design: Build 5 Narrow Specialists You Can Stack

A monolithic prompt told to be *"coder, therapist, lawyer, and copywriter"* dilutes accuracy. Keep each Skill laser-focused on **one job + its exact reference docs**, start its description with *"Use when..."* for auto-triggering, and stack two narrow `/skill-name` commands when tasks span domains!

6 High-Impact Recipes You Can Copy & Run Today

Test-drive the full suite in ten minutes with these six battle-tested blueprints—two for **Deep Research**, two for **Canvas**, and two reusable **Gemini Skills / Workspace Gems**.

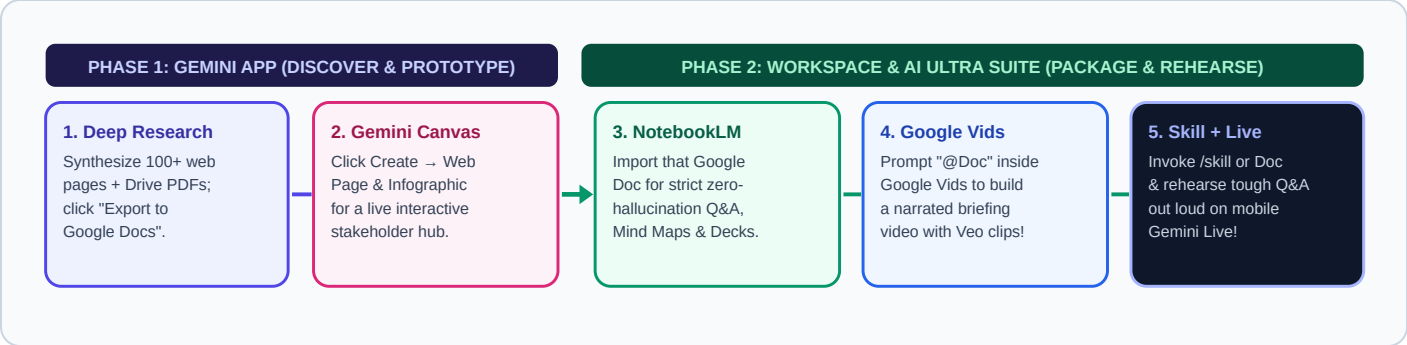
Recipe & Tool	Setup / Attachments	Copy-Paste Prompt or Skill Blueprint
1. Major Purchase / Vendor Matrix `Deep Research`	Toggle **Deep Research**; edit Plan to cut fluff before starting.	`"Compare the top 5 [mesh Wi-Fi systems / CRM tools] for [3,200 sq ft brick home / 25-person agency] in 2026. Separate paid affiliate hype from long-term owner complaints on Reddit/forums. Output a spec + real-world reliability table and clear #1 pick."`
2. Internal Deck vs. Live Market Audit `Deep Research`	Attach your strategy PDF + `@Drive` roadmap.	`"Audit our attached 2026 pitch deck against live competitor launches, pricing changes, and market benchmarks from the past 6 months. Highlight 3 claims in our deck that are now outdated and cite stronger replacement stats."`
3. Executive What-If Simulator `Canvas` + `AI`	Toggle **Canvas**; click ✨ **Add Gemini Features** after render.	`"Build a sleek dark-mode SaaS runway & pricing simulator with interactive sliders for Monthly Leads, Conversion %, Price, and Churn, live 12-month charts, and an AI button that writes a 4-bullet risk memo from the current sliders."`
4. Transcript → Infographic & Quiz `Canvas Create`	Drop messy meeting notes, lecture PDF, or report into **Canvas**.	Once open in Canvas, click top-right **Create** → **Infographic** for a one-page visual summary poster, then click **Create** → **Quiz** to generate an interactive 10-question team readiness check with hints!
5. "Ruthless Clarity Editor" `/clarity-editor` `Skill`	Knowledge: Link your team's Google Doc style guide + 3 best articles.	**`SKILL.md`** **Rule:** `"Act as an executive editor. Cut passive voice, throat-clearing intros, and clichés by 30% while keeping warmth. Output: (1) Polished version, (2) 3 bullet notes explaining cuts."`
6. "Chief of Staff Morning Brief" `Skill` + `Schedule`	Enable `@Calendar`, `@Gmail`, and `@Tasks`; set 7:30 AM weekday schedule.	**`SKILL.md`** **Rule:** `"Check today's @Google Calendar, unread VIP threads in @Gmail, and overdue @Google Tasks. Deliver a 1-minute morning brief: Top 3 priorities, meeting landmines, and urgent replies."`

Tool Compatibility Rule: Run Skills & Canvas / Deep Research in Sequence

Gemini **Skills** currently work with Connected Workspace apps, but **do not yet work inside Canvas, Deep Research, Create video, Create music, or Guided Learning**. Run Deep Research first, or apply `/clarity-editor` in standard chat and then move the draft into Canvas!

Studio Synergy: Research to Live App, Notebook & Video

Inside your **Google AI Ultra** creative suite, **Google Docs** acts as the universal baton. Watch how a single question flows across five Google tools in twenty minutes to produce an entire executive launch kit.



3 Golden Rules for Picking the Right Tool in Your Suite

- **Deep Research vs. NotebookLM:** Start in **Gemini Deep Research** when you need an autonomous scout to search the open internet and discover sources you don't own yet. Move the resulting Google Doc into **NotebookLM** when you want a closed-walled garden that answers *strictly* from your curated sources with zero outside web noise.
- **Canvas Infographics vs. Google Flow:** Use **Gemini Canvas** for data-rich dashboards, crisp typography layouts, interactive charts, and working UIs. Jump to **Google Flow** (`flow.google`, uniting Whisk & Veo 3.1) when you need bespoke artistic visuals, character design, or cinematic storytelling.
- **Out-Loud Pitch Rehearsal on Your Phone:** Before any big presentation, attach your Deep Research Google Doc alongside a `/board-reviewer` Skill (or Workspace Gem) on the Gemini mobile app, tap **Gemini Live**, and practice defending your numbers hands-free!

Quick Handoff Cheat Matrix: Which Button Moves Your Work Next?

Starting Asset	Exact Handoff Action	Destination & Instant Payoff
Deep Research Dossier	`Export to Docs` → Add Source	**NotebookLM:** Grounded Mind Map, Slide Deck & team Q&A notebook.
Google Doc Strategy Brief	Type `@DocName` in prompt	**Google Vids:** Scripted storyboard video with voiceover & Veo B-roll.
Winning Canvas Prototype	Copy from `Code` tab	**Google Antigravity:** Multi-file full-stack app, auth & cloud deploy.

Bonus Workspace Multiplier: Run `/` Skills & Gems in Docs & Gmail
Open the Gemini star icon in the top-right corner of **Google Docs** or **Gmail** to invoke modular `/` Skills (or Workspace Gems via Settings until 2027) directly beside your inbox or draft without switching tabs!

Troubleshooting Clinic & Power-User Cheat Sheet

Keep this reference page handy—every quirk across Deep Research, Canvas, and Gemini Skills / Gems has a fast, predictable 10-second fix.

Top 7 Gemini Power-Suite Problems & Instant Fixes

Symptom / Problem	Root Cause & 10-Second Fix
Deep Research report feels generic or surface-level	Clicked *Start research* without editing the plan. Always click **Edit plan** to cut intro definitions and demand specific 2025–2026 metrics, competitors, and Markdown comparison tables.
Canvas rewrote my whole draft when I wanted 1 sentence changed	Typed the edit in the main left chat panel. Instead, **highlight the exact sentence** inside the right-hand Canvas document and use the small floating inline prompt box!
Canvas interactive app preview is blank or a button fails	Minor JS/React state bug. Click **Fix error** if prompted, or toggle to **Code**, highlight the broken handler, and ask: `"Fix this click state bug without altering the layout."`
Personal Gem read-only, missing files, or Skill won't run in Canvas	Personal 18+ Gems went read-only Nov 17 (removed Dec 17); download >100 MB or unsupported files (audio/video/GitHub/`.zip`) first. Skills don't yet work inside Canvas/Deep Research—run `/skill-name` in standard chat!
Skill or Workspace Gem can't read my latest Gmail or Calendar	Workspace extension disabled or unprompted. Enable Google Workspace under **Connected Apps**, include explicit `@Gmail` / `@Google Calendar` tags (and locate Workspace Gems in **Settings** until 2027).
Shared Canvas link exposes internal figures publicly	Public `g.co/gemini/share` links include everything rendered inside that Canvas! Replace sensitive client names with dummy data before sharing publicly, or export to permissioned **Google Docs**.
Hard math, logic, or architecture prompt hallucinates edge cases	Used fast conversational mode on a deep deduction problem. Switch the top model picker to **Deep Think** (AI Ultra) so Gemini verifies intermediate logic before replying.

Gemini Power-User Pre-Flight Checklist: 6 Habits of Top 1% Creators

- ☐ **1. Always Audit the Research Plan** before clicking Start.
- ☐ **2. Blend Private `@Drive` + Live Web** inside Deep Research.
- ☐ **3. Highlight-to-Edit in Canvas** to protect finished prose.
- ☐ **4. Click `Create` in Canvas** for instant Web Apps & Quizzes.
- ☐ **5. Stack `/skill-name` & Live Drive Docs** in unified chats.
- ☐ **6. Schedule Morning Briefs** via `@Calendar` + `@Gmail` autopilot!

Your First 10-Minute Power Run

Open `https://gemini.google.com`, toggle **Deep Research**, attach one Google Drive doc, refine the proposed Research Plan, and once the report lands—open it in **Canvas** and click **Create → Web Page**!