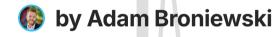# Build, Validate, or Drop It: A Hands-On Workshop for AI & Data Science Projects

Helping Honors Students in AI, Data Science & Software Engineering Bridge the Gap Between Ideas and Action

by Adam Broniewski

Workshop Description

This interactive workshop is built for Honors Academy students working on projects in **AI, data science, or software engineering**—whether those projects are part of a research stream, an entrepreneurial initiative, or somewhere in between.

Whether you're building a tool, testing a concept, or wondering if your idea has real-world potential, this session is designed to give you **practical, tailored support**. I'll draw from my own experience building data-driven startups, spinning up AI demos, and learning what it actually takes to get people interested (and paying) for what you've built.

Objective

To empower students with:

Real-world insights

Real-world insights from the trenches of AI/data/software entrepreneurship.

Clear direction

A clearer sense of how to move forward—whether that's validating demand, building a demo, or figuring out next steps.

Tangible feedback

Tangible feedback on their actual problems—not generic theory.

Format

Brief Talk (10–15 min)

I'll share honest lessons from my experience as a data-driven founder—what's worked, what hasn't, and why spinning up demos changed everything.

Live Consulting (45–60 min)

Bring your actual challenges. We'll dig into them together. Participants will get specific, honest, and actionable input—on the spot.

Pre-Work (Required for Participation)

To make the session relevant and valuable, participants are expected to submit the following **at least 3 days in advance**:

One clear question or challenge

they're currently facing.

A document that gives context

for their project (e.g., business plan, research outline, pitch deck—anything that explains what they're working on).

This helps tailor the session to the people actually in the room and makes sure we're solving *your* problems—not just talking in generalities.

Who Should Join?

Honors students

Honors students in **AI, data science, or software engineering**.

Progress seekers

Anyone looking to make real progress on their idea, prototype, or research.

Feedback enthusiasts

Students who want honest feedback and practical next steps—not just inspiration.