To get your OpenAI API key (your_openai_api_key), follow these steps: **(by Golam Kaderye)**

Step 1: Sign up or log in

Go to: https://platform.openai.com

- Sign in with your existing OpenAI account
- Or create a new one (free or paid)

Step 2: Visit API Keys Page

Once logged in, navigate to:

https://platform.openai.com/account/api-keys

Step 3: Generate a New Key

- Click "+ Create new secret key"
- Copy the key when it's generated (it will look like: sk-...)
- You won't be able to see it again, so save it somewhere secure (e.g., your .env file)

Example .env File

OPENAI_API_KEY=sk-xxxxxxxxx
EMBEDDING_MODEL=text-embedding-ada-002
LLM_MODEL=gpt-3.5-turbo

Make sure you do not share your API key publicly (e.g., GitHub) — it's sensitive.

Tips for Usage

Free tier users get limited usage per month (check usage page).
For production, billing info may be required:
https://platform.openai.com/account/billing