**Reflective Journal: Exploring Generative AI with Azure AI Foundry**

This lab experience gave me an opportunity to interact with generative AI technology through Microsoft's Azure AI. The goal was to understand how generative AI functions within a structured environment and to experience the creation and deployment firsthand.

One of the most important things I learned was the process of setting up a project in a professional AI development platform. From creating a project and customizing the hub and resource group to selecting a deployment region, I gained practical skills in organizing and managing AI tools. I learned about key Azure components such as the Azure AI services, AI hub, storage account, key vault, and resource group. These resources work together to support AI model deployment and ensure data and process security. I also learned techniques to improve AI responses, such as adding context, refining prompts, and providing sources.

One of the main challenges I faced during the lab was figuring out the correct way to associate the chat playground with a deployed model. Initially, I was unsure if I had selected and applied the model correctly, which made me realize how precise configuration is important when working with these tools. Another challenge was crafting prompts that generated useful responses. I decided to try my own prompts outside of what was given in the lab, and some of my first attempts were too vague or general, which led to less helpful answers. This taught me how important it is to be clear, specific, and purposeful when interacting with AI systems.

This lab was yet another reminder that AI is a practical and powerful tool to solve everyday problems. I also realized how crucial it is for humans to guide AI effectively. The AI only works well when given the right context, expectations, and instructions. I also gained insight into the ethical use of generative AI. While the lab did not focus on ethics directly, it became clear to me that the way we use AI- what we ask it, how we interpret its responses, and how we use that information- matters a lot in ensuring it helps more than harms.This lab experience not only taught me technical skills but also helped me develop critical thinking in how I communicate with AI systems.

