## Field Guide: The Prompt Autopsy Workshop

The **Prompt Autopsy** is a core exercise in Phase 1 designed to strip away the illusion of AI as an "oracle" and expose it as a statistical **intelligence factory** . In this workshop, you will deconstruct AI outputs to identify the difference between genuine reasoning and "manufacturable intelligence"—the confident, highly probable sequence of tokens.

### Phase 1: The Incision (The Request)

Start by asking a Large Language Model (LLM) to perform a complex task where it is prone to "uncritical acceptance" or hallucinations .

* **Target Task:** Ask for a detailed analysis of a niche historical event or a complex legal argument that requires specific, accurate citations.
* **The Goal:** Observe how the AI presents information with **unearned confidence**, even when factual accuracy is compromised.

### Phase 2: Structural Analysis (The Deconstruction)

Examine the output through the following lenses:

* **Token Probability:** Identify generic "filler" phrases. AI optimizes for engagement and probability; look for the points where the logic feels like a "template" rather than first-principles thinking.
* **Source Integrity:** Check every citation. Note where the AI has "hallucinated" credible-sounding but non-existent papers or legal precedents.
* **Confidence vs. Rigor:** Highlight sections where the prose is authoritative but the underlying reasoning is circular or shallow.

### Phase 3: The Logic Stress-Test

Use the AI as a **thought partner** to perform an autopsy on its own previous answer .

* **Constraint Probe:** Provide a new, conflicting piece of evidence and see if the AI pivots its logic instantly (learning velocity) or attempts to rationalize its previous error.
* **Assumption Audit:** Ask the AI to list the five hidden assumptions it made in its first response. Evaluate if these reflect **algorithmic bias** or limited training data.

### Phase 4: Reporting the Findings

Prepare a "Post-Mortem" report for your Capabilities Dossier :

* **The Hallucination Rate:** What percentage of technical claims were false?
* **The Template Score:** How much of the output relied on generic distributions rather than integrated thinking?
* **Reflective Insight:** Detail how this autopsy changed your approach to **AI-enabled expertise**—moving from being a passive consumer to an active, critical "Questioner" .

### Why This Matters

As you move into Phase 2's high-stakes challenges, you must understand that creation is the only honest proof of competence left. The Prompt Autopsy ensures you treat AI as a **co-pilot**, not an autopilot, protecting your uniquely human judgment in a world of commoditized tools.

**Would you like me to draft a "Code of Ethics" for the student-led bias audit in Week 4?**