CSCI 7000-006 AI-driven Leadership

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Have you received the welcome email I sent yesterday?

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What are you most looking to get out of today’s meeting?

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Today’s goals

Why develop your leadership skills

How can AI help you be a better communicator, leader

Discovery: learning about each other (**F**amily **O**ccupation **R**ecreation **M**otivation), expectations

How can I be successful in CSCI 7000-006?

Why this course, Why now?

AI is no longer just automating tasks—it’s shaping decisions

Engineers increasingly influence strategy, not just implementation

Leadership today = framing problems, not just solving them

AI amplifies both clarity and confusion

How can I be successful in CSCI 7000-006?

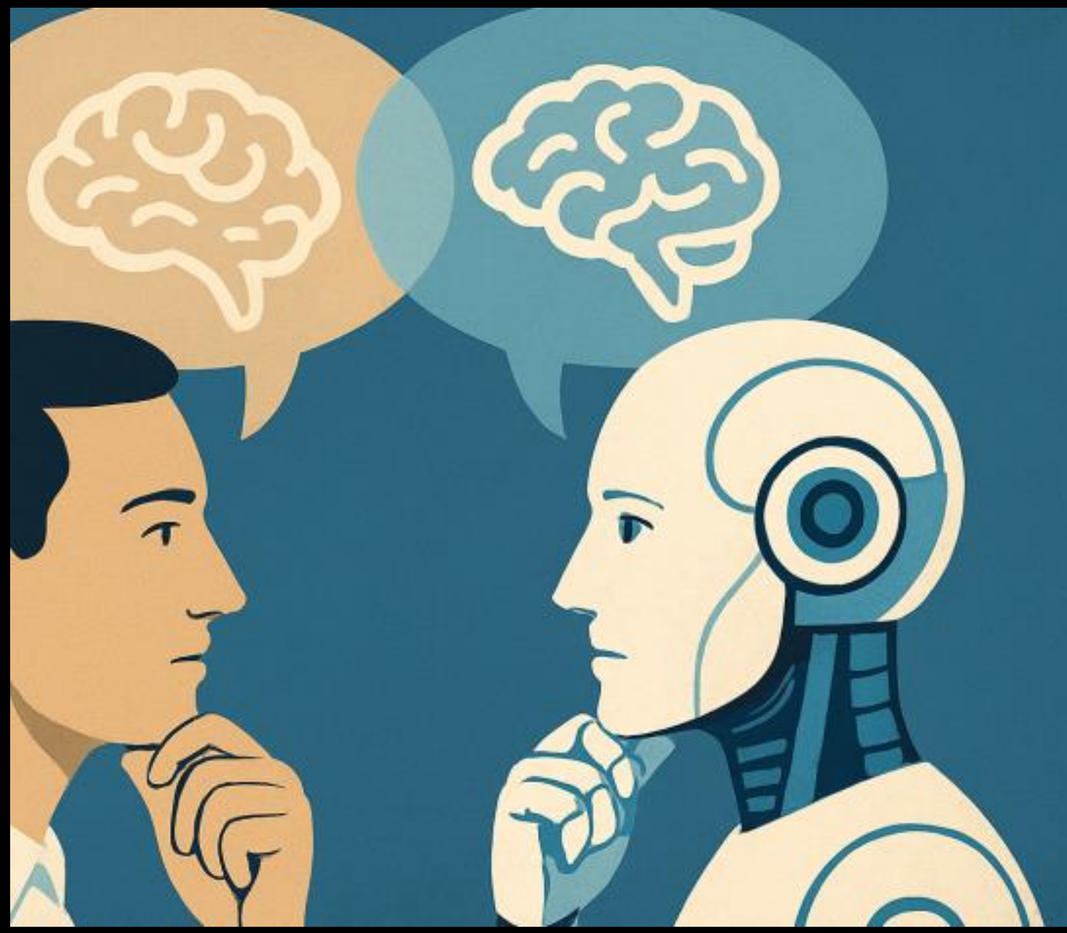
From tools to Thinking Partners

Traditional tools: execute predefined logic

Generative AI: co-constructs ideas, arguments, alternatives

Value shifts from answers → questions

Leadership = asking better questions



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When have you already used AI as a thinking partner—without calling it that?

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How Leaders & Organizations use AI today

Strategic Thinking: Commercial real-estate utilized AI to enhance its strategic decision-making

Stress testing decisions: “What could go wrong?”

Interaction & Decision-Making: A company faced challenges with an activist board

Content Creation: Companies leveraged AI for generating marketing content and reports

Idea Generation: Executives used AI to brainstorm potential solutions for business challenges

source: AI-Driven Leader by Geoff Woods

Demo: How can I say the same thing in a different way?

To: Professor Jones
From: Student X
Subject: Deadline extension
Date: 22 December 2024

Hi Professor,

I’m honestly pretty frustrated about the project deadline. Between my other classes, research responsibilities, and unexpected issues that came up this week, it feels unrealistic to expect everything to be done at the level you’re asking for by Friday.

I’ve been putting in a lot of effort, but it seems like the workload for this class doesn’t really take into account what grad students are actually dealing with. I don’t think it’s reasonable to penalize us for circumstances that are outside our control.

I’m asking for an extension because I don’t see how I can produce quality work otherwise. I hope you’ll reconsider the deadline given the situation.

Thanks,
[Student Name]

Key Take-aways

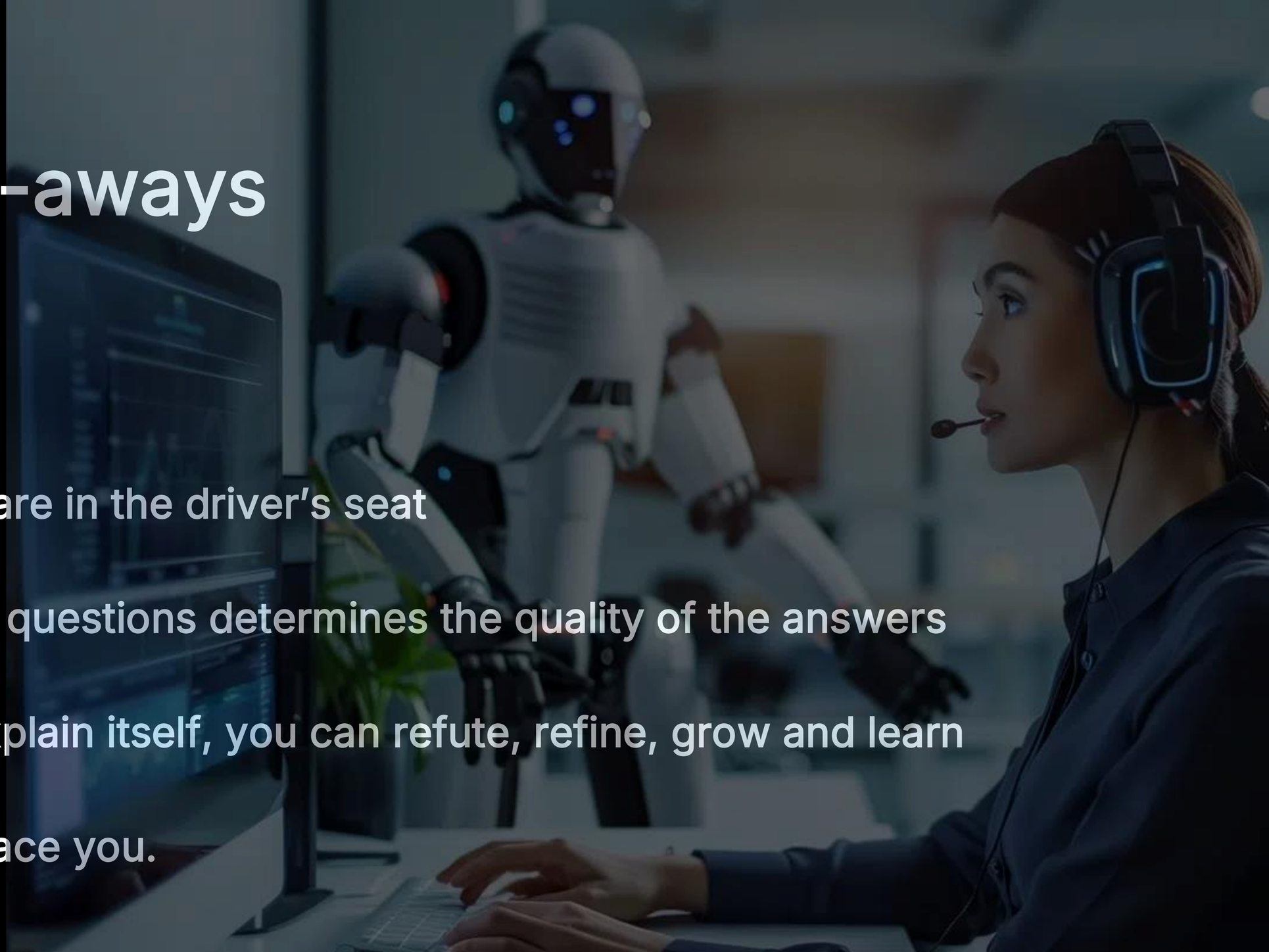
AI saves you time

As a human, you are in the driver’s seat

The quality of the questions determines the quality of the answers

By asking AI to explain itself, you can refute, refine, grow and learn

AI does not displace you.



Parable of Stone Soup AI

1. Tech execs come to village:

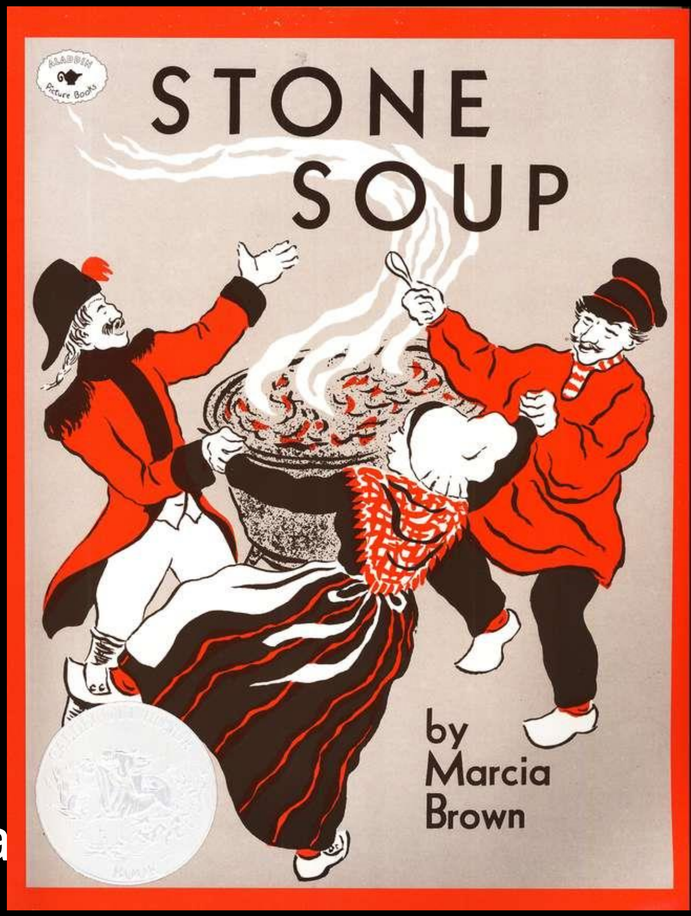
We will make amazing AI with just a few magical algorithms (e.g., gradient descent, transformers)

… would be so much better with more data

… even more magical with human feedback

… even better if humans would learn to ask questions the right wa

2.Villagers: wow, what magical AI just from a few algorithms



https://simons.berkeley.edu/news/stone-soup-ai

Essential Ingredients for good AI interaction

Describe the task

Give Context

Assign a Persona

Specify requirements

Establish limits

Explain WHY

Ask it to interview you

What this seminar is NOT

Not prompt-engineering tricks

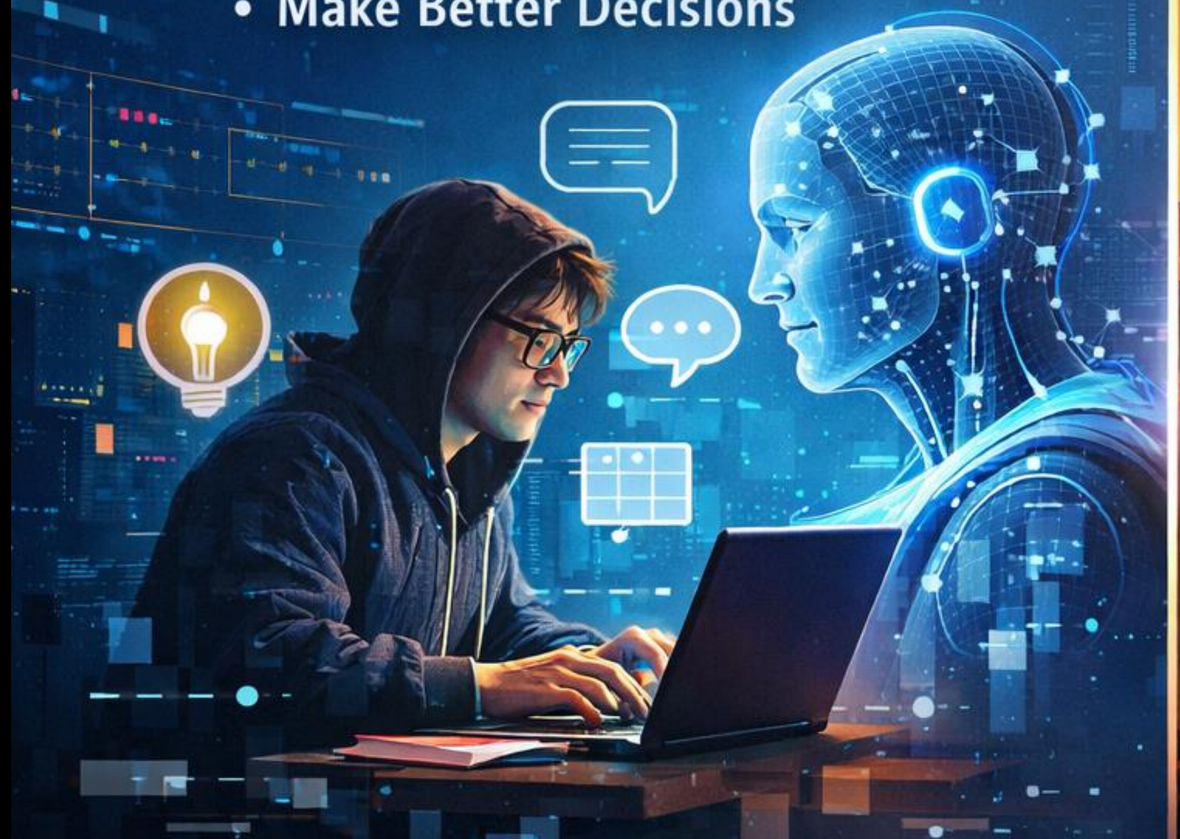
Not automation for automation’s sake

Not leadership theory detached from practice

Core Goals of This Seminar

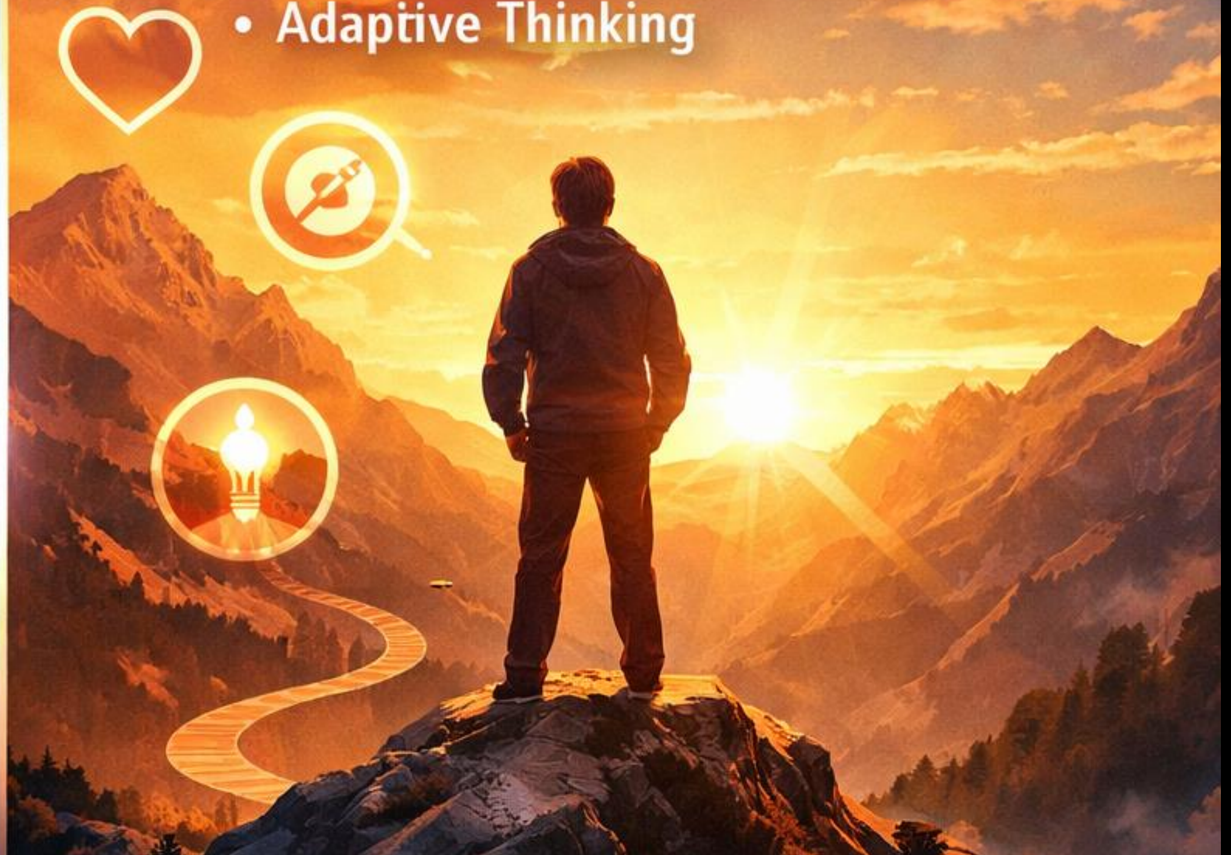
Do More with AI

- Think Clearly
- Communicate Effectively
- Make Better Decisions



Grow as a Leader

- Self-Awareness
- Values-Driven Judgment
- Adaptive Thinking



Getting to know you

“Quiz” About YOU

Your name

- FORM (family, occupation, recreation, motivation)

- Grad Program (e.g., CS PhD, MS, MSCP, etc.), year of study, who is your grad advisor

- Your background (e.g., industry or leadership experience)

- What is the ONE Thing that you expect to take out of CSCI 7000-006?

What are your plans post graduation?

What are your expectations from CSCI 7000-006: AI-driven Leadership

A. Become a better leader
B. Become proficient with AI services and tools
C. Lead others in the use of AI
D. Common misconceptions about leadership
E. Verify AI results

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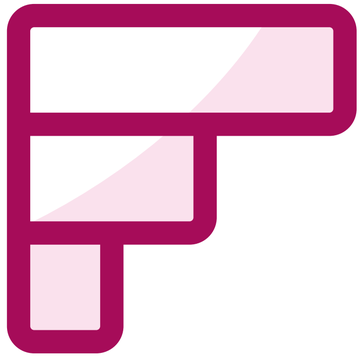

What are your expectations from our seminar on AI-driven Leadership?

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