

Putting AI to Work for Justice:

Open Data, Self-Help Tools, and Accessible Legal Research

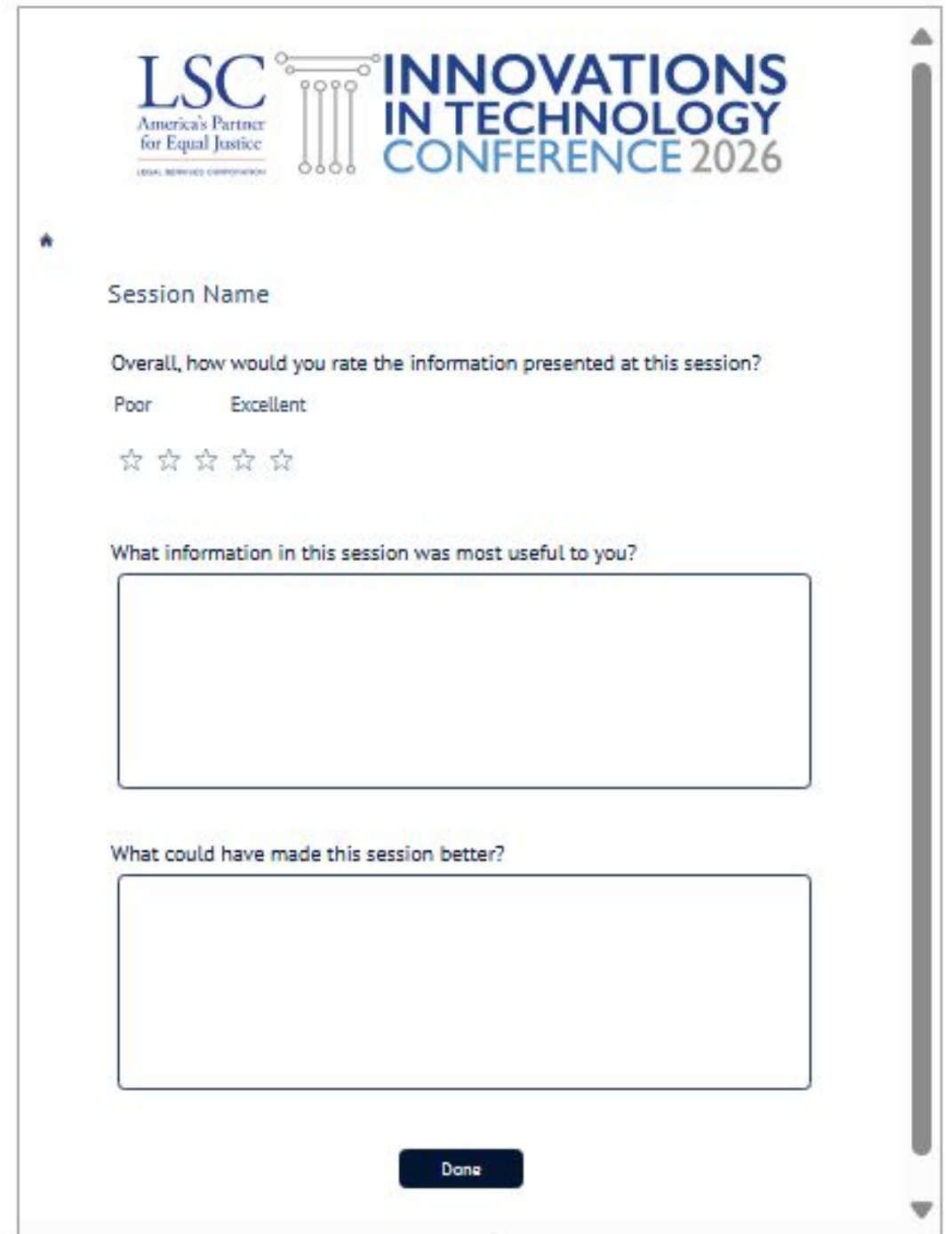
descr^ybe.ai
Changing legal research for good



FREE LAW PROJECT
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Provide session feedback on the ITC26 app

- Find the link to the **Session Survey** at the bottom of the session description.
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The screenshot shows a feedback form within the ITC26 app. At the top, the LSC logo is on the left, followed by a graphic of four vertical lines with circles at the top, and the text "INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2026" on the right. Below the header, there is a small star icon and the text "Session Name". The next question is "Overall, how would you rate the information presented at this session?", with "Poor" and "Excellent" labels. Below this is a row of five empty star icons. The third question is "What information in this session was most useful to you?", followed by a large empty text box. The fourth question is "What could have made this session better?", followed by another large empty text box. At the bottom right, there is a dark blue button labeled "Done". A vertical scrollbar is visible on the right side of the form.

LSC
America's Partner
for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

INNOVATIONS
IN TECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE 2026

★

Session Name

Overall, how would you rate the information presented at this session?

Poor Excellent

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

What information in this session was most useful to you?

What could have made this session better?

Done

Who We Are



Free Law Project
Director of Justice Initiatives

Jessica Frank

jessica@free.law



Free Law Project
Executive Director

Michael Lissner

mike@free.law



Free Law Project
Director of Philanthropy

Jenifer Whiston

jenifer@free.law



descrybe.ai
Co-Founder & CEO

Kara Peterson

kara@descrybe.com

Free Law Project
Developer/Justice Initiatives

Mitch Mitchell

mitch@free.law

Why This Session?

How is your organization using AI today?



What We'll Cover

- Open data + legal AI
- Designing AI for SRLs and courts
- AI for nonprofit capacity and grants
- Accessible legal research

Open Data & Public Interest Legal AI

Michael Lissner

AI Needs a Foundation

- How is your AI good?
 - Open data is key
 - Use benchmarks and test data
 - Sharing solutions is good

What We're Doing

From easiest to hardest

- Summarization (soon)
- Audio transcription
- “AI OCR” and digitization
- Categorization
- Semantic search
- Citator
- Litigant portal

Why Legal AI is Different

It's not all bad news!

- Stakes may be higher:
 - for the client
 - for you
- Unauthorized Practice of Law
- Data may be private

Tradeoffs & Guardrails

- Don't go blindly
- Use automated systems to check work
- Use benchmarks
- Know the limitations

Ecosystem Impact

- Semantic search makes legal research accessible
- AI transcripts empower alerts and awareness
- Vision APIs can do cheap, high-quality digitization
- Open data helps improve foundation models
- Hallucination detector finds mistakes
- Search and APIs bring case law to more places to build a competitive legal research ecosystem

Designing AI for Courts & Self-Represented Litigants

Jessica Frank

The Self-Represented Litigant Reality



Design Principles for SRL-Facing AI



Where AI Helps (& Where It Doesn't)



Explaining Procedures



Legal Advice

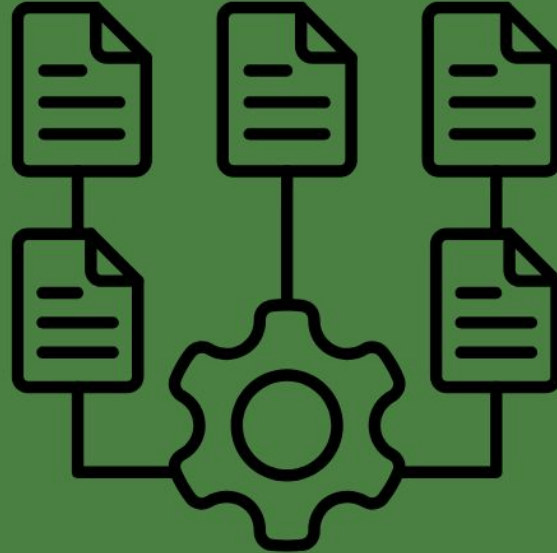


Structuring Information



Strategic Judgment

The Litigant Portal



powered by 

Demo

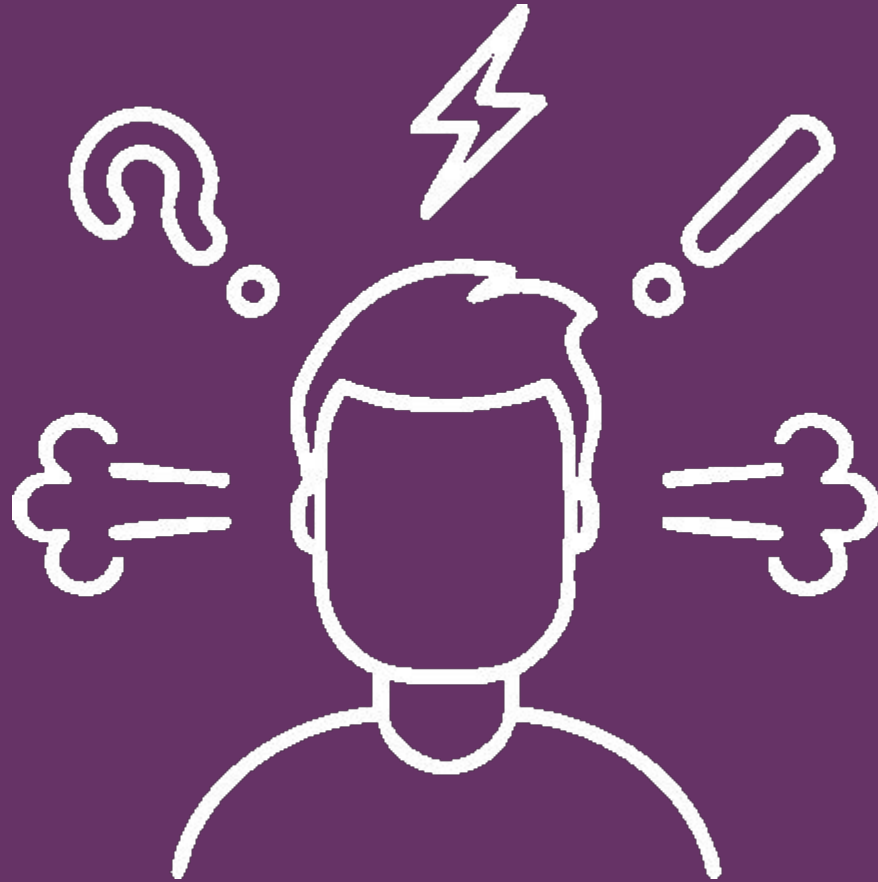
Responsible AI: Expanding Nonprofit Capacity Without Losing Trust

Jenifer Whiston

Why this matters now?



Underfunded

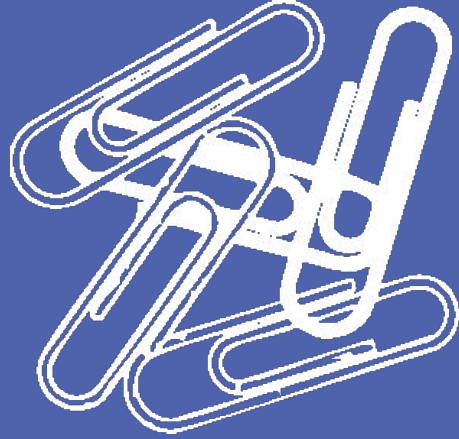


Understaffed




Lack of Time

How do you use AI?



 Copilot

 ChatGPT

 Gemini

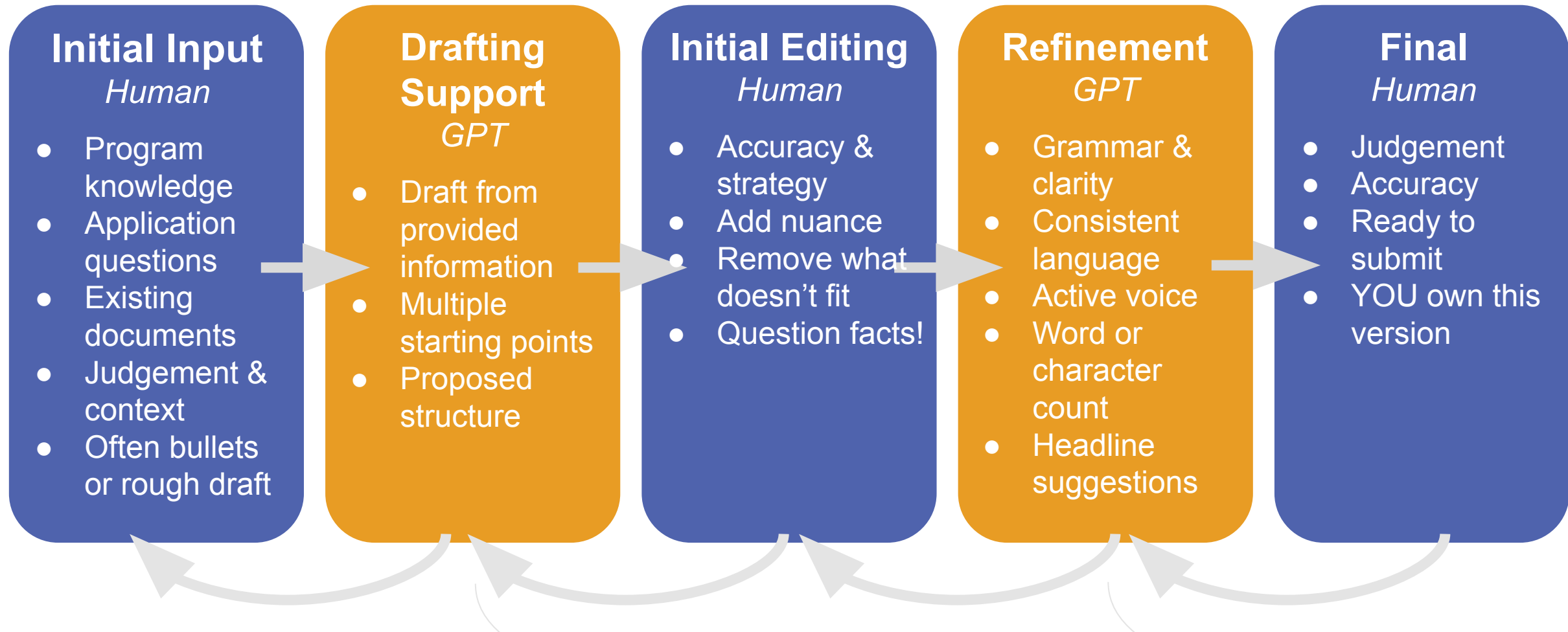
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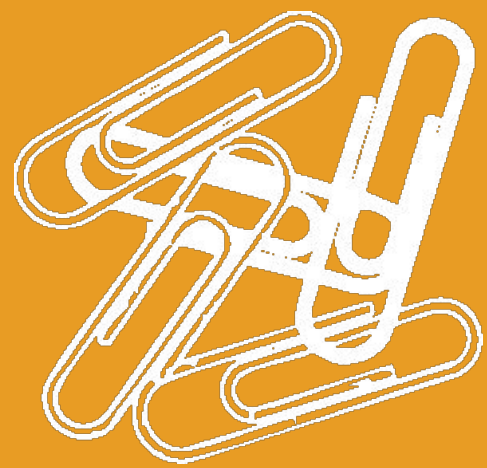
Meet River City Legal Aid



strong programs, thin capacity, constant deadlines

Responsible AI Workflows for Grant Writing





Responsible AI Workflows for Grant Writing

“We Have Bullets”

- Provide bullet points: services offered, outcomes achieved, community needs.
- AI and humans work to create a final version

“We’re Stuck”

- Staring at a blank page - now what??
- Using what you do have ask GPT for 5 possible approaches and bullets to support each approach
- Select the bullets that you like, add your own, and then work through the process.

“We Have Past Materials”

- Upload relevant documents - one pagers, prior grant narratives, links to blog posts (IMPORTANT - remove any personal information before sending to a GPT)
- Have the GPT use only the materials you uploaded to come up with bullets to answer a question
- Refine, edit, and add to the bullets before starting the process.

Rubrics & Self-Scoring



Please rate the following using this scorecard:

#1 have a clear opening that grabs the reader score from 0 to 3

#2 clearly answer the application question from 0 to 3

#3 clearly address the complexities from 0 to 3

#4 lay out the strongest possible argument 0 to 3

#5 uses equity and community centered framing 0 to 3

#6 explain terms so that a non-attorney can fully comprehend the narrative 0 to 3

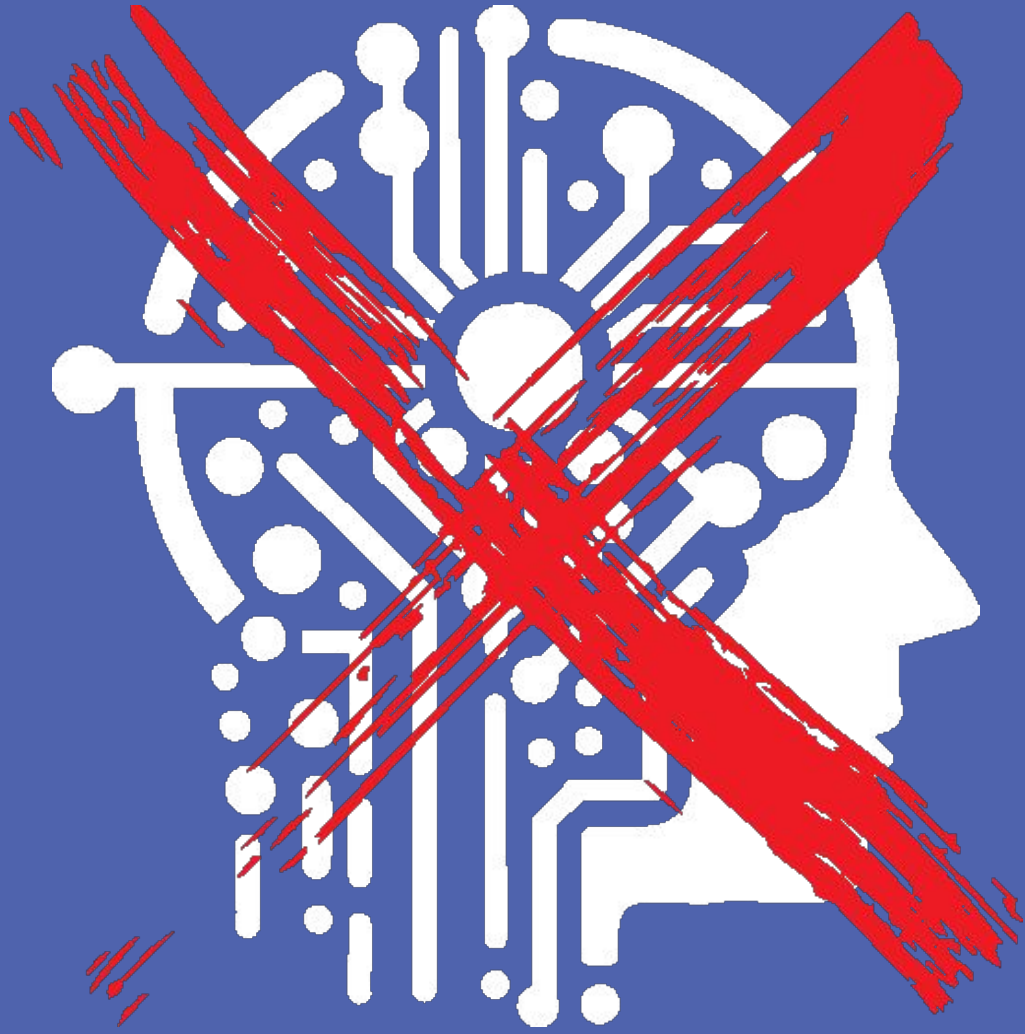
Given these details, could you score this article and provide suggestions on how to improve ratings of 0 or 1?

Editing & Discipline



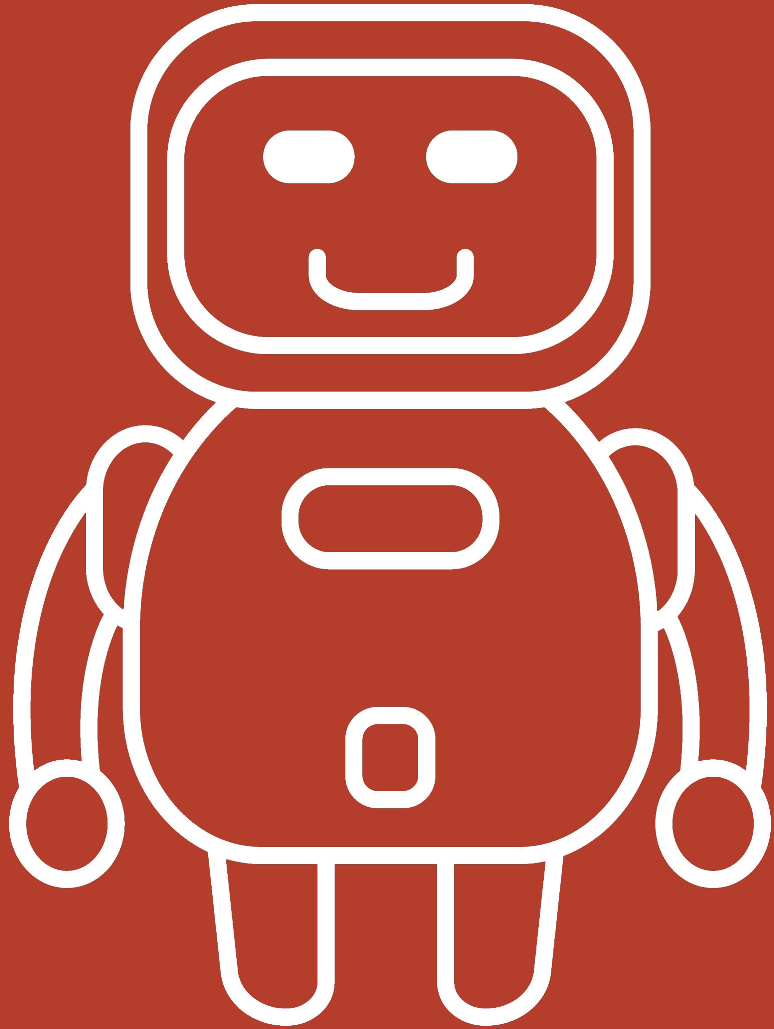
AI excels at editing: clarity, tone, consistency, and word-count discipline

What AI is NOT Doing



AI does not invent programs,
set strategy, or replace
human judgment

The Intern Analogy



Treat AI like an intern or law clerk—useful, but always reviewed

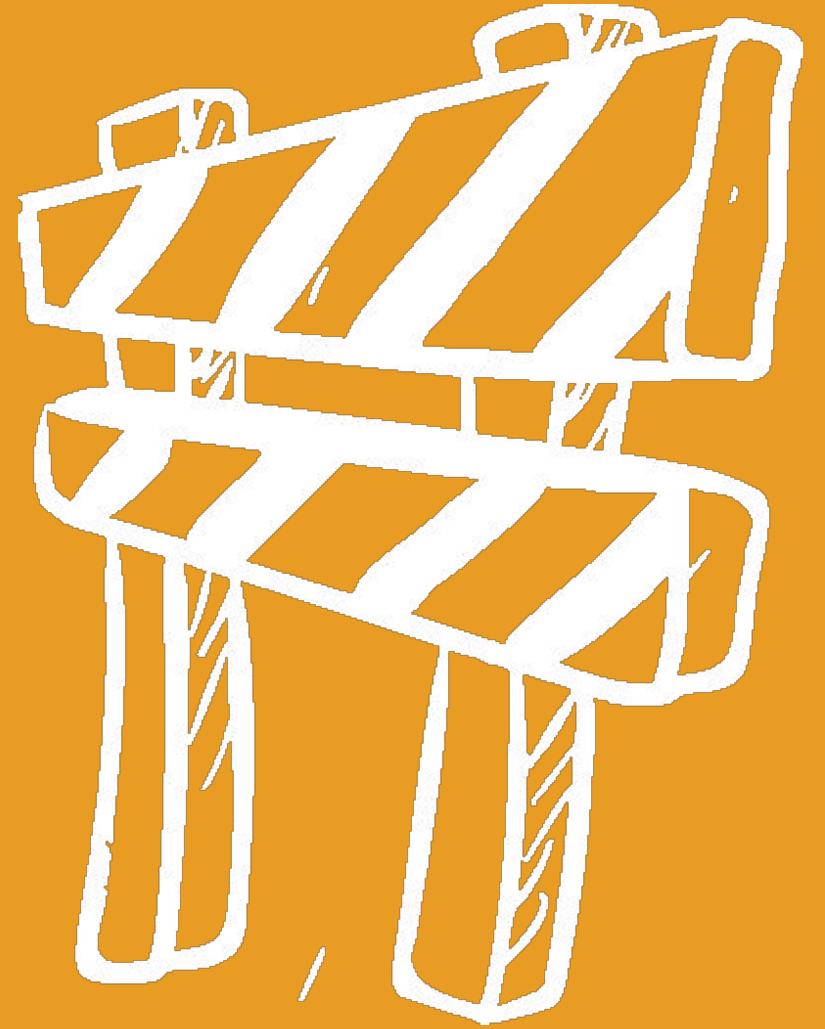
Train Your Own GPTs!



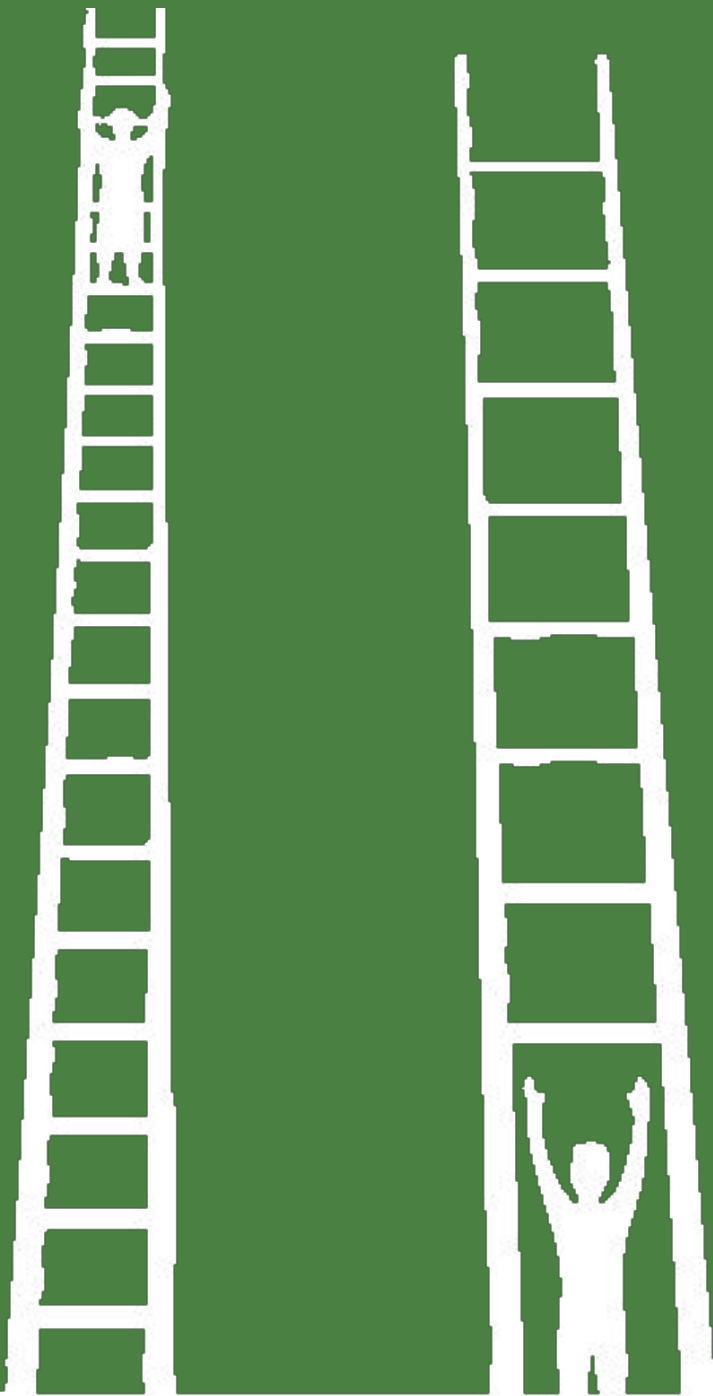
Define multiple voices,
provide guardrails, or teach
specific tasks.

Guardrails

Clear guardrails make AI safer,
more consistent, and easier to
adopt responsibly



Start Small



What AI is NOT Doing

AI scales nonprofit work only when judgment—not automation—remains in human hands.

Accessible Legal Research with AI

Kara Peterson



Changing legal search for good

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Resources & Contact Info:

Free Law Project: <https://free.law>
CourtListener: www.CourtListener.com
descrybe: <https://descrybe.ai/>



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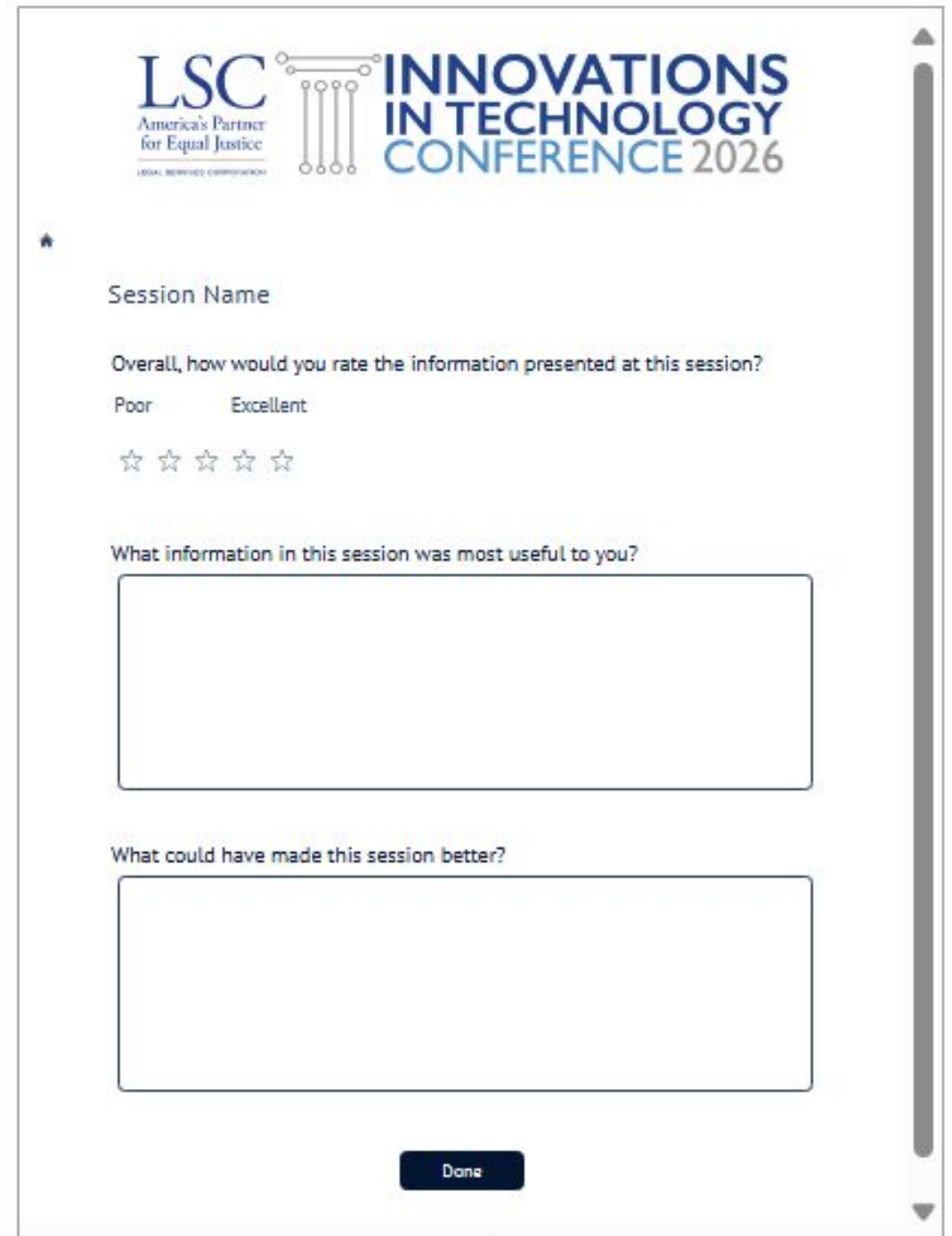
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