

Putting AI to Work for Justice: Open Data, Self-Help Tools, and Accessible Legal Research



Provide session feedback on the ITC26 app

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The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for providing feedback on a conference session. At the top, the LSC logo (America's Partner for Equal Justice) and the event name "INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2026" are displayed. Below this, there is a section for "Session Name". Underneath it, a question asks "Overall, how would you rate the information presented at this session?" with a scale from "Poor" to "Excellent" and a five-star rating icon. A large text input field is provided for "What information in this session was most useful to you?". Another text input field is for "What could have made this session better?". At the bottom right, there is a "Done" button.

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



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Co-Founder & CEO

Kara Peterson
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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

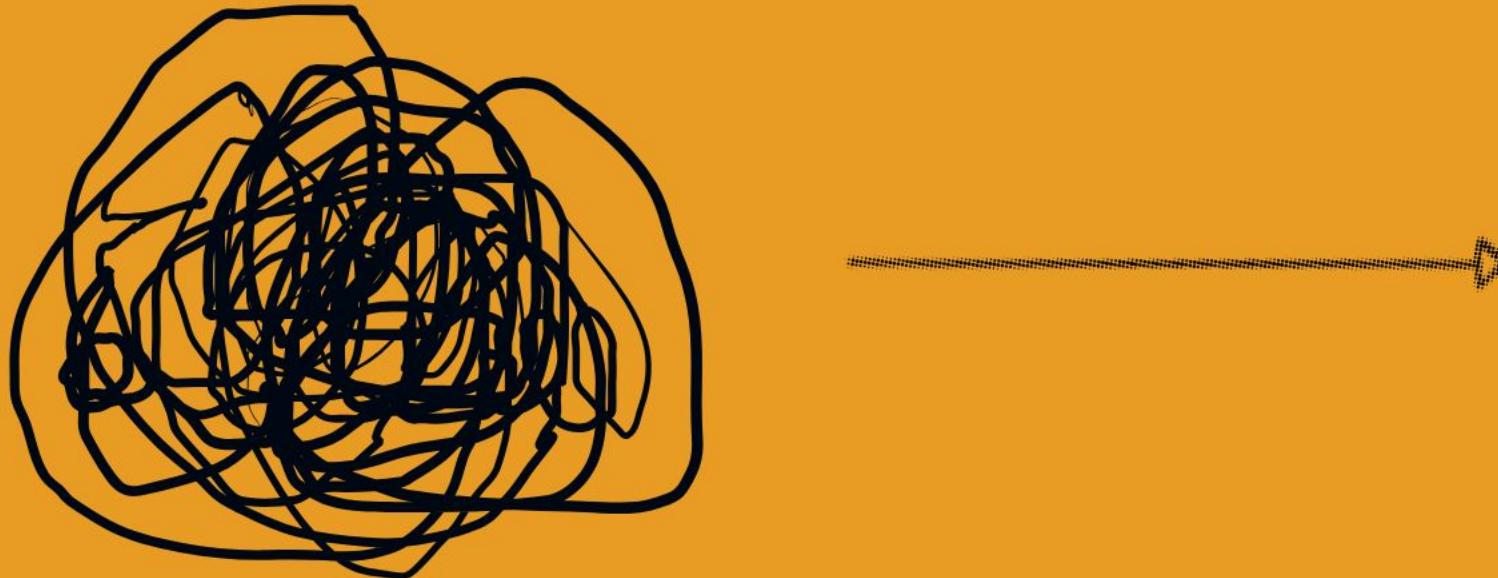
Designing AI for Courts & Self-Represented Litigants

Jessica Frank

The Self-Represented Litigant Reality



Design Principles for SRL-Facing AI





Where AI Helps (& Where It Doesn't)



Explaining Procedures



Structuring Information

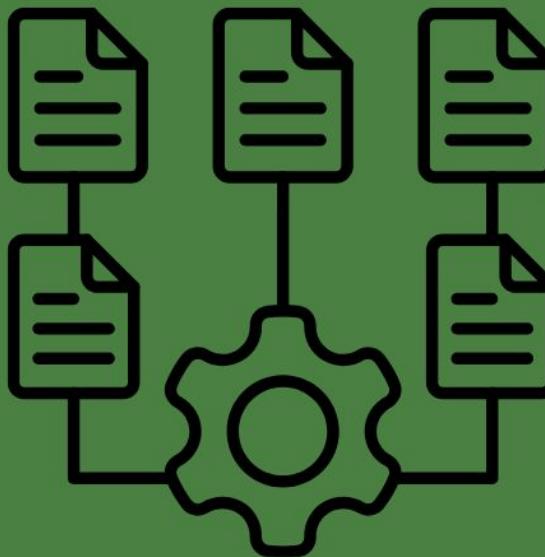
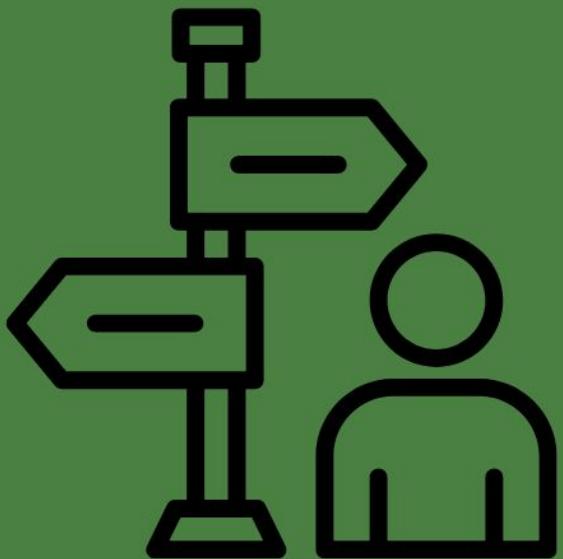


Legal Advice



Strategic Judgment

The Litigant Portal



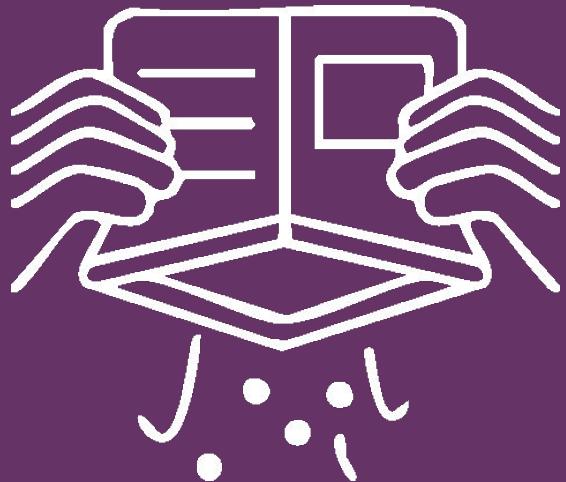
powered by aws

Demo

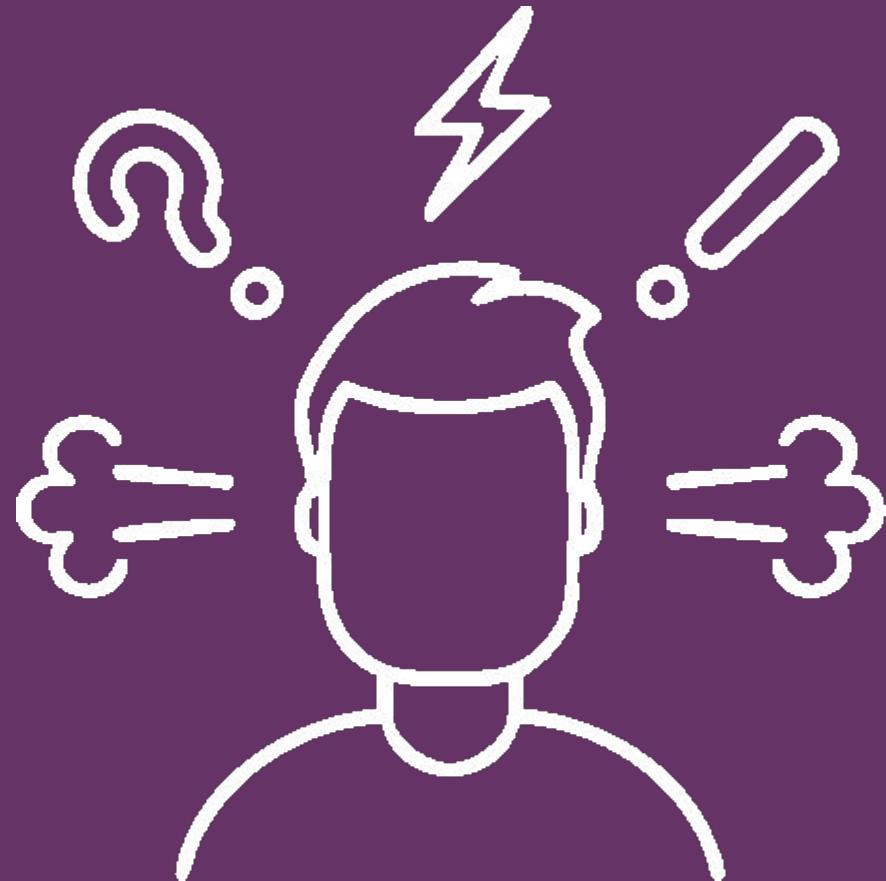
Responsible AI: Expanding Nonprofit Capacity Without Losing Trust

Jenifer Whiston

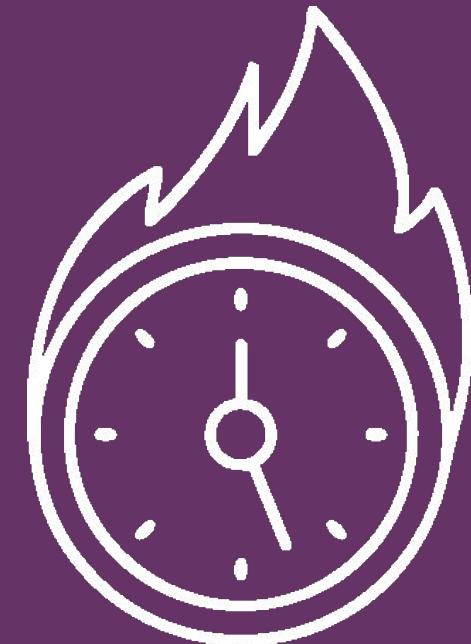
Why this matters now?



Underfunded

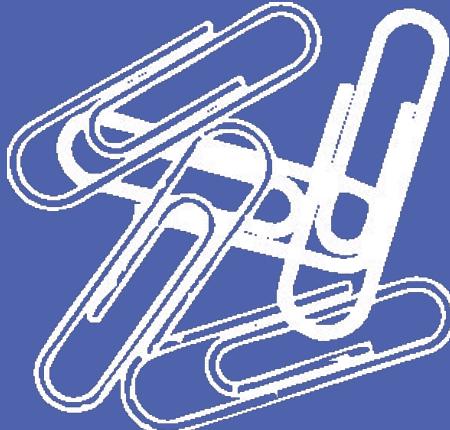
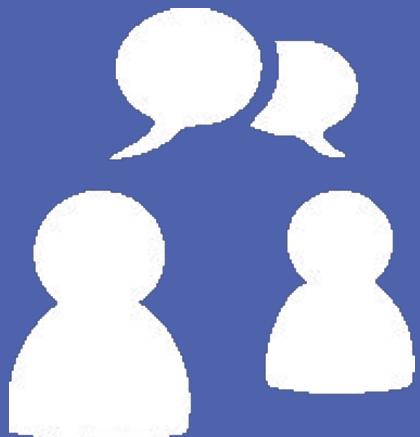
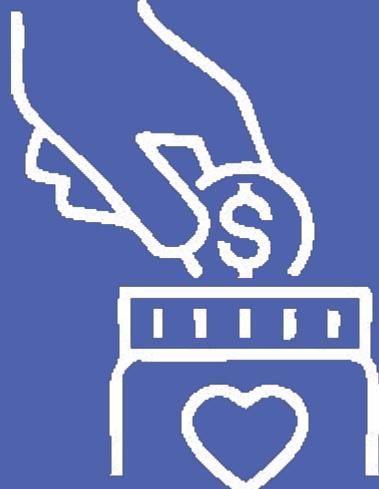


Understaffed



Lack of Time

How do you use AI?



Copilot



ChatGPT

Gemini



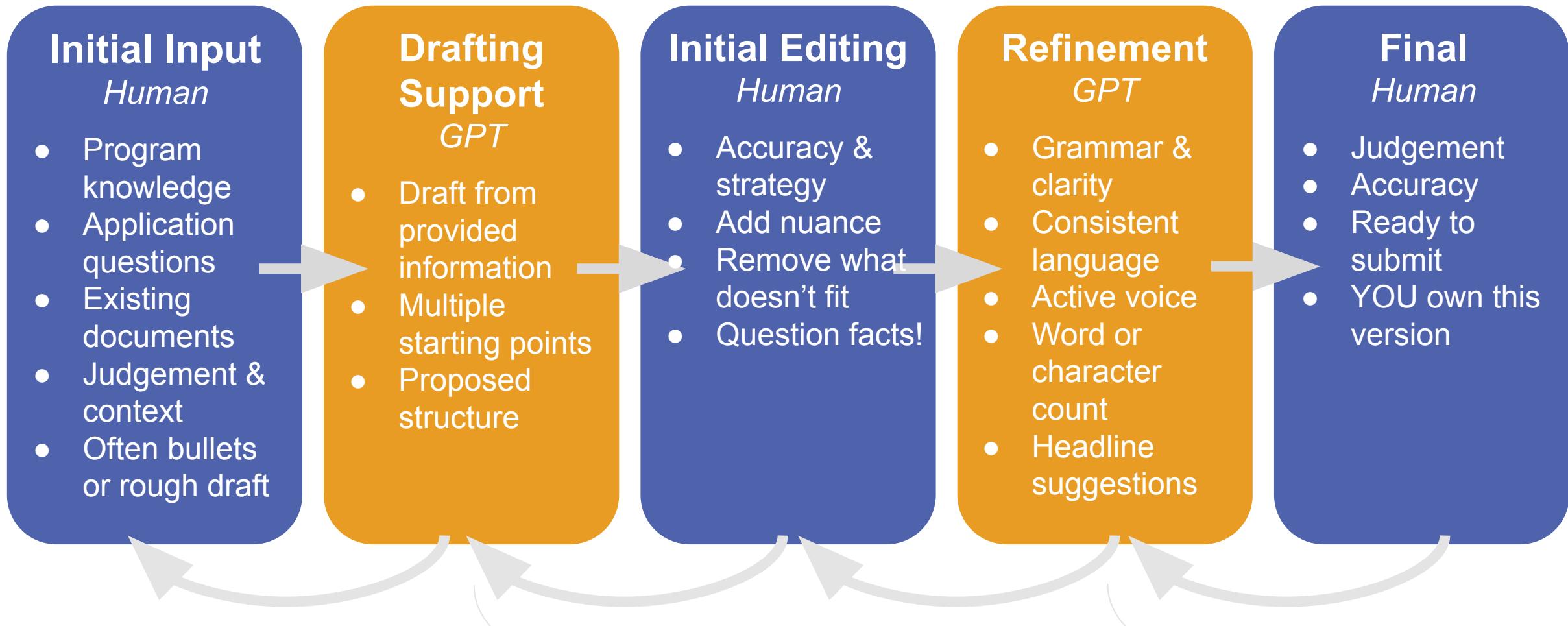
Claude

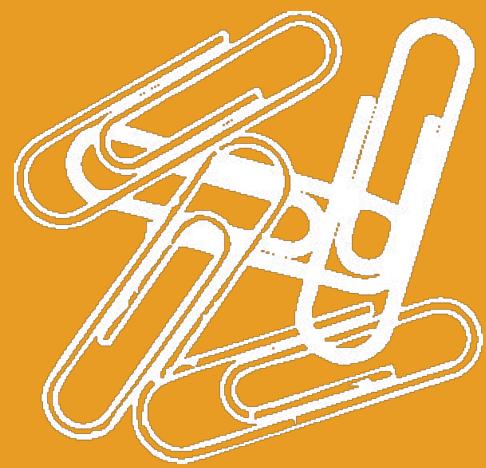
Meet River City Legal Aid



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

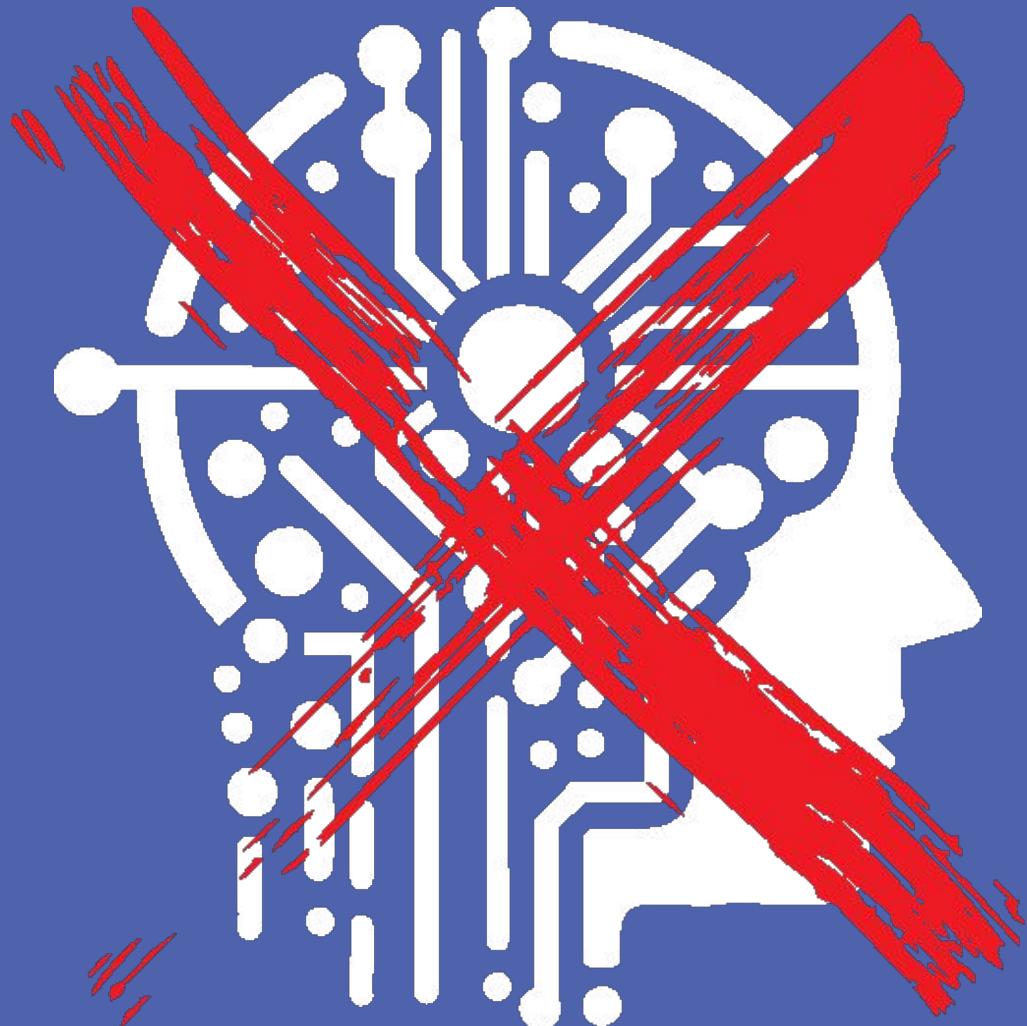
Given these details, could you score this article and provide suggestions on how to improve ratings of 0 or 1?

Editing & Discipline



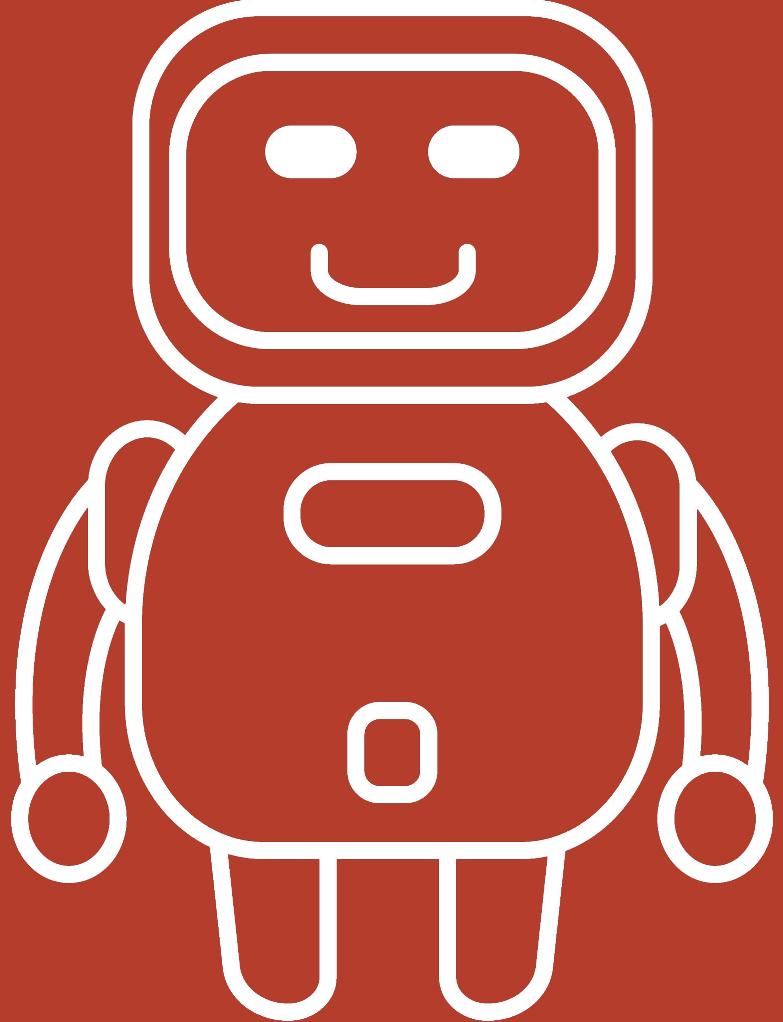
AI excels at editing: clarity, tone, consistency, and word-count discipline

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

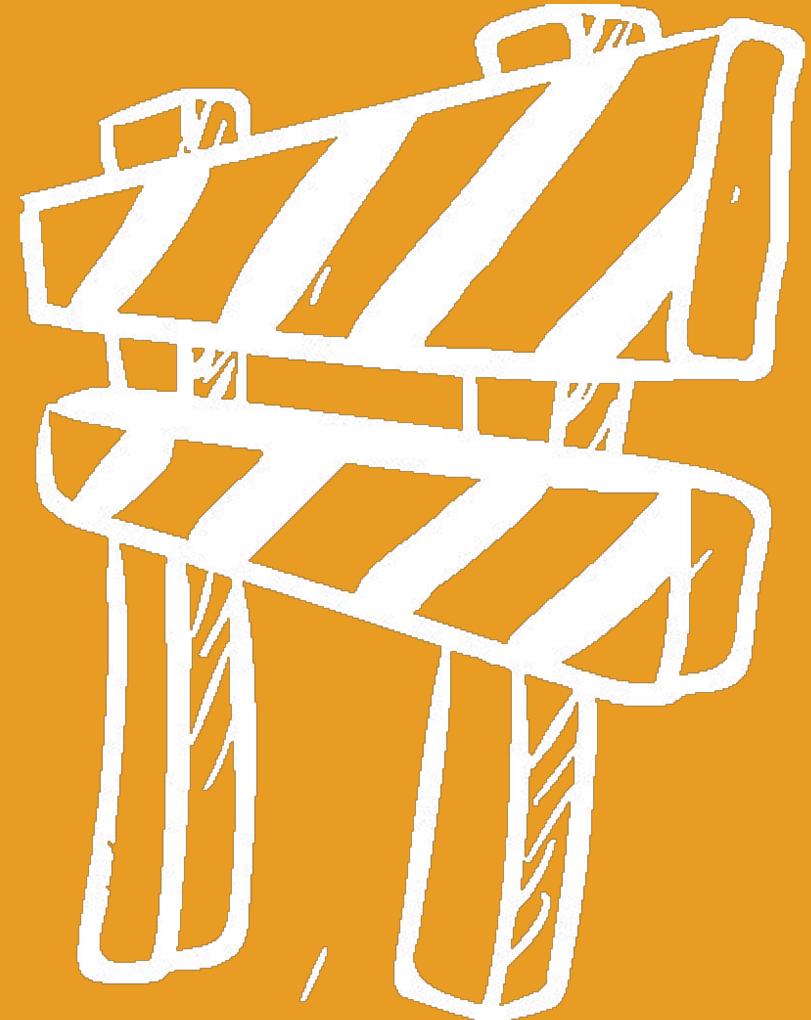
Train Your Own GPTs!

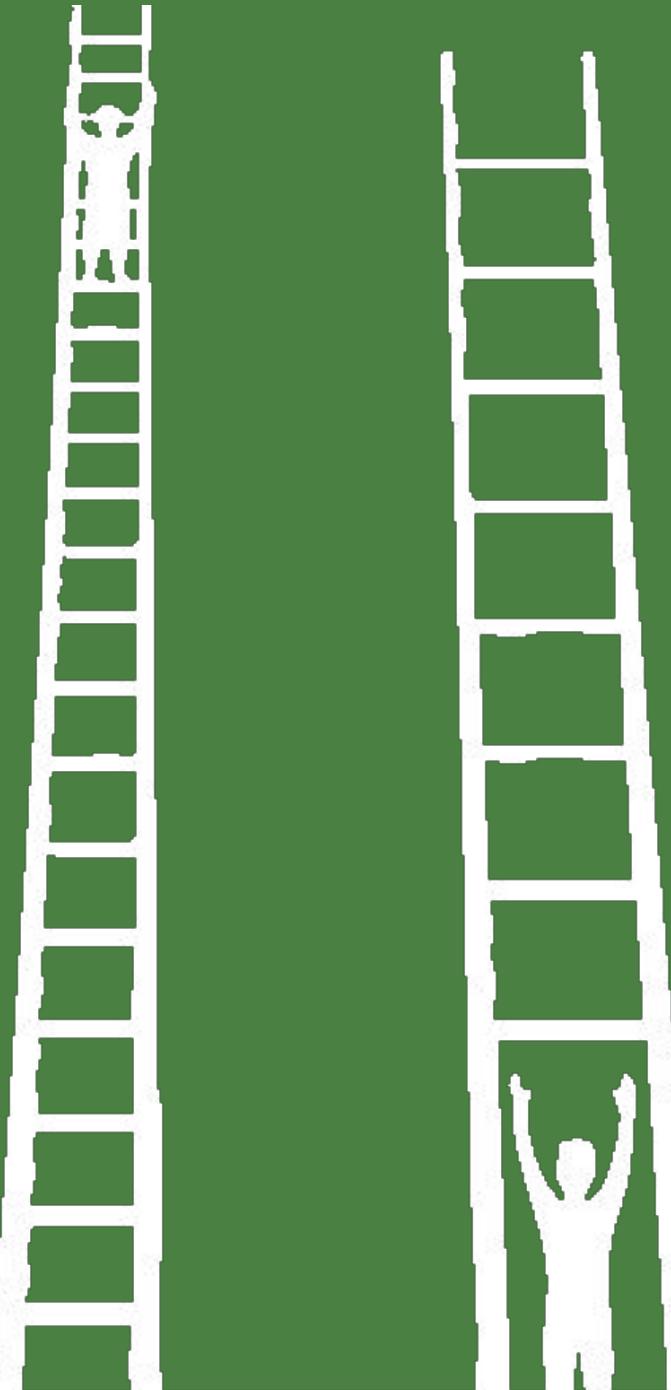


Define multiple voices,
provide guardrails, or teach
specific tasks.

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

descrybe.ai

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Changing legal search for good

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Search

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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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Session Name

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

Poor Excellent

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Done