The AI-suggested code was more efficient than my manual implementation in several key areas. While both implementations used Python's built-in sorted() function with a lambda expression, the AI version included comprehensive error handling that my manual code lacked. The AI implementation featured try-catch blocks to handle KeyError exceptions when the specified key doesn't exist in dictionary items, and type validation to ensure the input is actually a list of dictionaries.

Key differences included optional parameters for reverse sorting and custom comparison functions, making the AI version more versatile for real-world applications. The AI version also included detailed docstrings with parameter descriptions and usage examples, following PEP 257 conventions that my manual implementation missed.

In terms of readability, the AI version was superior due to its comprehensive documentation and intuitive parameter naming. However, my manual implementation was more concise and easier to understand for simple use cases.

The AI version handled edge cases by checking for empty lists, None values, and mixed data types, while my manual code would crash with improper inputs. For production use, I would choose the AI version because it provides robust error handling, better documentation, and extensibility features essential for maintainable enterprise code, despite being slightly more complex for basic sorting tasks