SAIL Framework: Executive Summary

Critical Thinking for an AI-Augmented World

The Challenge

Students can *use* AI but cannot *evaluate* it. Each time they accept output without evaluation, they accumulate **cognitive debt** (Kosmyna et al., 2025, MIT Media Lab). The debt compounds until they lack the capacity to catch AI errors.

The SAIL Framework

Social Intelligence	Communicating about AI to colleagues, clients, stakeholders
AI Literacy	Understanding AI capabilities, limitations, biases, and failure modes
Innovation/Inquiry	Questioning AI outputs; treating AI as thought partner, not oracle
Leadership	Taking responsibility for Human-AI collaboration outcomes

The Key Insight

Critical thinking isn't a fifth pillar—it's what makes the other four function. The Greek *kritikos* means "able to discern." The APA Delphi Report (Facione, 1990) defines CT as "purposeful, self-regulatory **judgment**"—integrating analytical skills with dispositional qualities like open-mindedness and truth-seeking.

The Evidence: Three-Phase Scaffold

- **Phase 1 (Foundation):** Students own intellectual work; AI constrained to research assistance
- **Phase 2 (Integration):** Full AI use with required evaluation for hallucinations
- **Phase 3 (Leadership):** Design Human-AI collaboration frameworks as CSO

Student quote: "The more I was depending on it, the less I was thinking about the concepts of underlying strategies." —Strategic Management, Fall 2025 (Rosen)

The Promise

Skills can be automated. Judgment cannot. SAIL develops the human capacity that remains irreplaceable as AI capabilities grow.

Not just AI-literate graduates. Graduates with judgment.

SAIL Collaborative · Suffolk University · Sawyer Business School
Hasan Arslan, PhD ·harslan@suffolk.edu