Before you get started w/ research

1. [+1] As a group, discuss any assumptions you have about your users or usage contexts. Consider aspects such as language, age, dis/ability, indoors/outdoors, alone vs. small group vs. family vs. large social gathering, etc. Write a summary of your discussion and a clear statement of your assumptions going into user research.

- Because of our age group and the general engagement that our generation has with critically interacting with AI systems in complex, non-trivial contexts: our researched users are assumed to be College/College-age students engaging with a variety of non-trivial workflows. These workflows involve coding assignments, writing assignments, knowledge synthesis, etc. We assume that users would generally zone out after some intermediate duration of response (~20 seconds) and would therefore be ambivalent to response duration past a certain threshold; this is due to our general age-range being inundated by attention-reducing content. We assume that these users will also critically engage with the information received from LLM agents, as they did not grow up taking answers/ease of information for granted, and their use cases and workflows aren't trivial enough to be easily summarized within an agent's training data.

2. [+1] As a group, share any hunches you want to test or unknown/open-ended questions you want to answer through user research. Summarize your discussion, listing out 2-3 things you want to learn through user research.

- The dominant focus of our research will be on analyzing how users engage with AI, especially how they engage with systems with higher latency. We hypothesize that there will be little difference between a minute vs a few minutes in terms of latency given that a user has already disengaged from the activity. We want to see if their perception of answer quality increases with higher latency; how often they disengage with these systems; if higher latency creates frustration, and if there is a use case for higher latency LLM-chatbot solutions. In summary:
    - How long/how often will users disengage from interacting with the LLM?
    - What will the user's perception of answer quality be w.r.t latency?
    - Will more verbose, more "intelligent systems" increase user satisfaction?

3. [+1] Based on your discussion above, pick a method/s. Write 1-3 sentences justifying your methodological choice. You can employ multiple methods or just one. Make sure your response answers: How are these methods going to help you understand the problem you are trying to address? How will each method allow you (or prevent you) from reaching users of interest?

- Our selected method is a think-aloud study followed by a short interview/debrief session. The think-aloud session allows us to witness and understand how users engage with low-latency and high-latency systems, noting any behaviors or frustrations or disengagements. The interview will allow us directly obtain their perspectives on how they engage with AI and its various facets.

Directly approaching study-subjects to interview based on their known user attributes makes these methods neutral to the user group.

4. [+1] Write your user research protocol. Consider the following:
   - Recruitment strategy (e.g., whom to contact, how to contact, how many)
   - Time and place for each user research session (e.g., "in the afternoons, in person, in a meeting room")
   - Each member's role and responsibilities (e.g., For interviews: interviewer, note-taker, discussant, etc.)

   - Source from persons personally known to group, as these individuals would be most willing to engage in an interview, and are least likely to feel awkward/observed during the study. They also categorically fit in our target group, and can selectively be filtered to represent a wide variety of user archetypes (e.g. majors) and use cases. Group members should individually make contact and the target total should be 10 individuals.
   - Research sessions will be conducted in each individual researcher's own agreed-upon time with individual study participants, typically over Zoom for virtual interactions.
   - Each group member will conduct their own full-studies with their chosen individuals, and will be in charge of reaching out to interviewees.