Bellwether

GenAI 301: AI + APIs

Full Team Call

October 2025

Objectives

After this session, you should walk away understanding:

1. What an API is
2. How it differs from other ways of interacting with GenAI models
3. When you might choose to use an API versus the chat interface
4. What using an API with a GenAI model looks like

As part of this, we will also walk through the recent media analysis Bellwether did using OpenAI's API.

Agenda

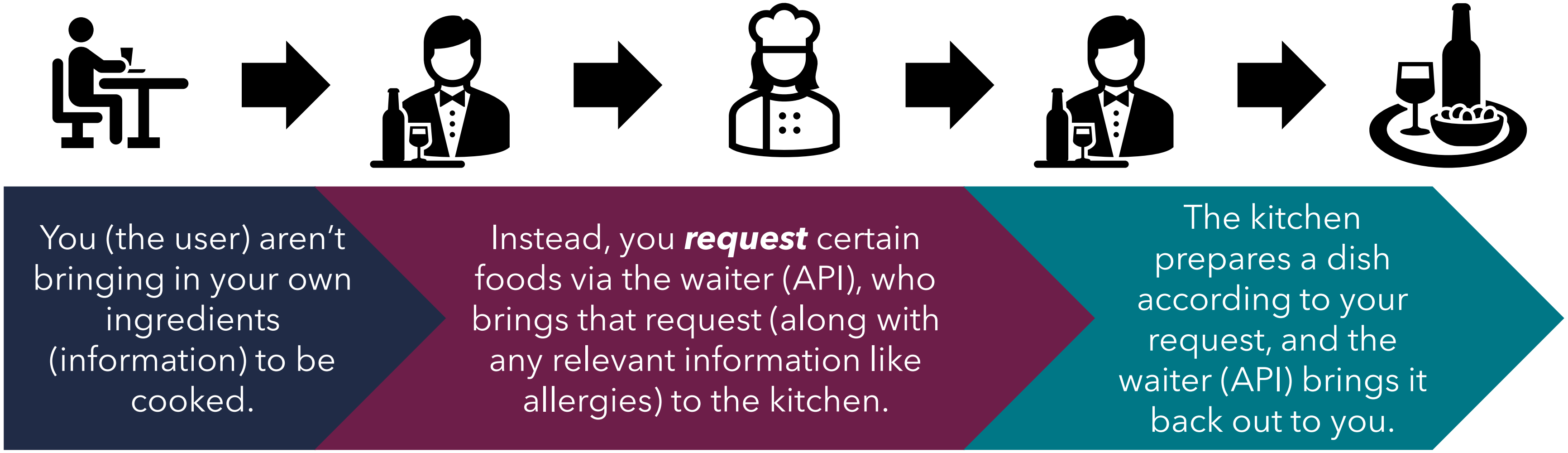
Introduction to APIs	20 mins
Example: Media Analysis	25 mins
Q&A	15 mins

Introduction to APIs

What is an API?

- API stands for **A**pplication **P**rogramming **I**nterface
- APIs **allow two pieces of software to "talk" to each other and share data directly**
- Instead of a human manually transferring information (e.g., USB drive upload or copy-pasting), **APIs use programming language (aka code) to request and deliver information**.

A good metaphor for an API is a restaurant, where the diner is the user, the waiter is an API, and the kitchen/chef is the other side.



You (the user) aren't bringing in your own ingredients (information) to be cooked.

Instead, you ***request*** certain foods via the waiter (API), who brings that request (along with any relevant information like allergies) to the kitchen.

The kitchen prepares a dish according to your request, and the waiter (API) brings it back out to you.

APIs have been around for a long time, and power many of our everyday experiences

- APIs have existed for decades as the “connective tissue” among digital systems
- You likely send and receive information via APIs everyday:

Getting real-time weather forecasts on your phone requires your weather app to interface with weather systems using an API

Sharing a photo or video from one app to another (e.g., Instagram → Facebook) uses an API so you don’t have to re-upload or copy-paste

Smart home integrations (e.g., “Alexa, turn off the lights”) use APIs to translate and execute your commands

Online payment or POS systems use APIs to transfer financial information (usually encrypted)

- Note: although they use code, APIs aren’t just for software developers
  - Many people set up API connections through “no-code” tools like Zapier, IFTTT, etc. to make apps work better for their specific context or use case

‼ APIs exist and work **completely independent of GenAI**. We can use APIs to connect to GenAI models, but APIs can be used with *any* software, not just AI-powered apps.

So how *do* APIs work with GenAI?

- Typically, users “talk” to a GenAI model through a **chatbot user interface**
- This allows us to send requests and get responses in a language easy to understand
- However, the **chat interface can be limited for certain use cases:**
  - Repetitive tasks across a LOT of data (think hundreds or thousands of rows)
  - Sending very large files (100+ page documents, long video or audio files)
  - Building custom applications
- An API connects directly to the model (no chat interface) to address these issues:
  - Code can **automatically send repeat prompts** to a model and aggregate the outputs
  - A backend API connection allows developers to create **custom front-end user interfaces** that only show what is necessary for their intended users

Essentially, APIs let us move from “chatting” with a model to *integrating* GenAI into our own tools and workflows.

In practice, an example could be an edtech tool using APIs with a GenAI model to:

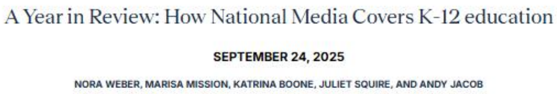
1. Pull student test scores from the school’s SIS
2. Send those to a GenAI model for analysis
3. Take the output from the GenAI and reformat it into a dashboard that displays trends or key themes

A Real Example: Media Analysis

First, some grounding: ICYMI…

Myself, Nora, Katrina, Julie, and Andy J. analyzed more than 1,500 articles from national news outlets to understand:

- What are the **dominant themes in national media coverage** of K-12 education?
- Who are the **most frequently quoted organizations and individuals** in education reporting, and how do they shape narratives?
- To what extent **does media coverage prioritize research, policy solutions, and actionable insights** around education issues, versus opinion or commentary?
- **How have trends on education coverage changed** over the course of the past year, especially in relation to major national events such as the 2024 presidential election, inauguration, and changes at the U.S. Department of Education?



A Year in Review: How National Media Covers K-12 education

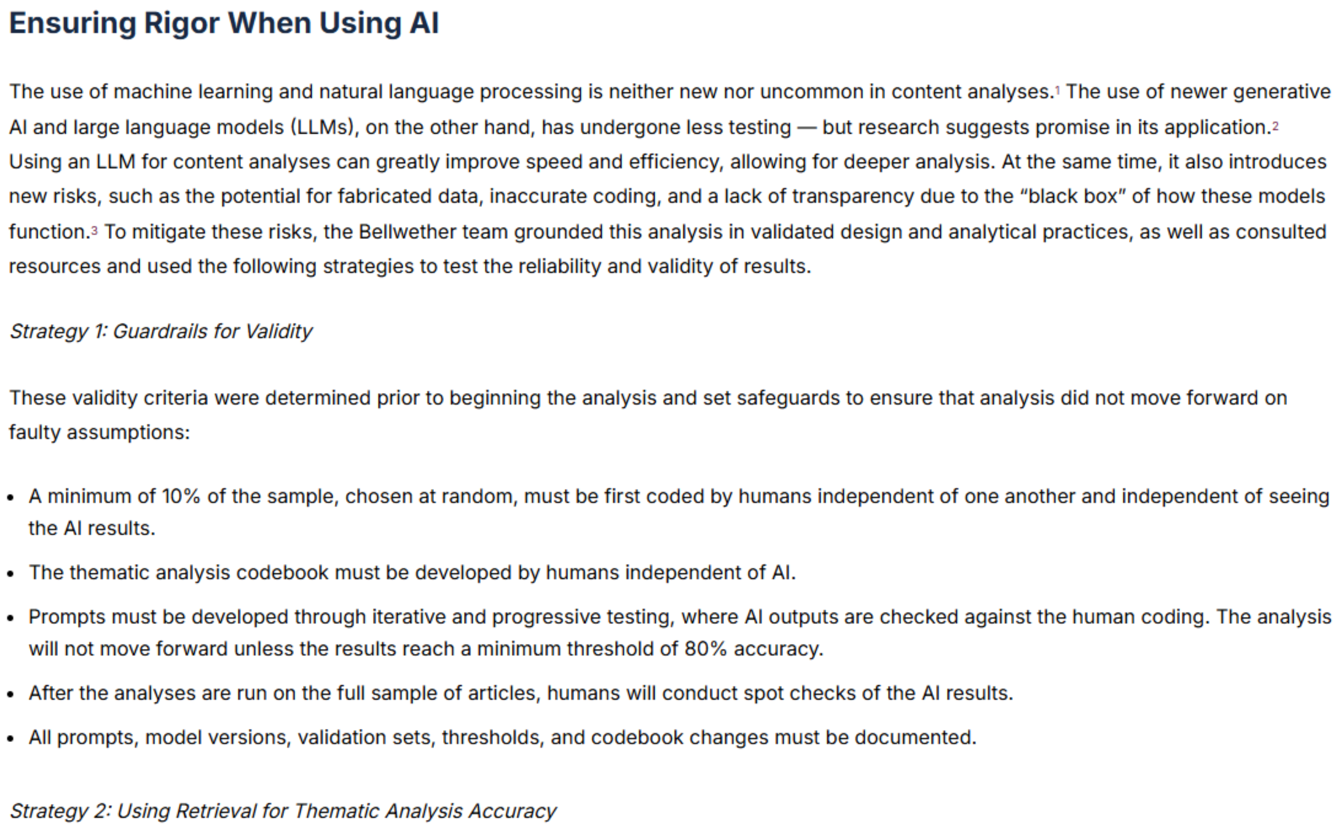
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

NORA WEBER, MARISA MISSION, KATRINA BOONE, JULIET SQUIRE, AND ANDY JACOB

Check out the final product here!

This was our first AI-assisted, public-facing product

As a result, we were *very meticulous* about the methodology – when you get a chance, please take a read to better understand how we're thinking about **rigorous AI usage**!



Ensuring Rigor When Using AI

The use of machine learning and natural language processing is neither new nor uncommon in content analyses.[1] The use of newer generative AI and large language models (LLMs), on the other hand, has undergone less testing — but research suggests promise in its application.[2] Using an LLM for content analyses can greatly improve speed and efficiency, allowing for deeper analysis. At the same time, it also introduces new risks, such as the potential for fabricated data, inaccurate coding, and a lack of transparency due to the "black box" of how these models function.[3] To mitigate these risks, the Bellwether team grounded this analysis in validated design and analytical practices, as well as consulted resources and used the following strategies to test the reliability and validity of results.

Strategy 1: Guardrails for Validity

These validity criteria were determined prior to beginning the analysis and set safeguards to ensure that analysis did not move forward on faulty assumptions:

- A minimum of 10% of the sample, chosen at random, must be first coded by humans independent of one another and independent of seeing the AI results.
- The thematic analysis codebook must be developed by humans independent of AI.
- Prompts must be developed through iterative and progressive testing, where AI outputs are checked against the human coding. The analysis will not move forward unless the results reach a minimum threshold of 80% accuracy.
- After the analyses are run on the full sample of articles, humans will conduct spot checks of the AI results.
- All prompts, model versions, validation sets, thresholds, and codebook changes must be documented.

Strategy 2: Using Retrieval for Thematic Analysis Accuracy

We grounded our approach with a heavy emphasis on “humans in the loop,” with AI just scaling our own thinking

Phase of Research	Phase 1: Extraction of Deductive Metadata	Phase 2: Thematic Coding and Extraction of Inductive Attributes	Phase 3: Trend Analysis
Human Design, Validation, and Analysis	• Cleaned dataset of online articles. • Identified key article themes by manually coding 50 articles and validating results with two separate analysts, then compiled those themes into a codebook for consistency. • Created a prompt for OpenAI API to extract key article details (e.g., author, date, outlet). • Iterated on AI prompt until OpenAI results aligned with human results at a minimum of 80% accuracy, based on a comparison of results in Microsoft Excel: • Tested prompt on the manually-coded sample. • Validated results against manual coding. • Refined prompt, as needed.	• Manually coded 100 additional articles for a total of 150 manually-coded articles. • Created a thematic analysis prompt to use with the OpenAI API. • Iterated on the prompt until results reached a minimum of 80% alignment with human results, based on a comparison of results in Microsoft Excel: • Tested prompt on the 150 manually-coded articles. • Validated results against manual coding. • Refined prompt, as needed.	• Spot-checked the final deductive and inductive results from the AI-powered coding. • Removed articles that were duplicates or not related to education (e.g., special interest stories). • Analyzed the final dataset according to project’s research questions.
AI Tool	• Pulled key details (e.g., author, date, outlet) from every article in the sample to create a dataset of article attributes.	• Converted the articles and theme codebook into numeric representations and stored them in a specialized search index to be used for thematic analysis. • Conducted the thematic analysis by identifying each article’s main topic and coding it according to the theme codebook.	• N/A

Now onto the good stuff!

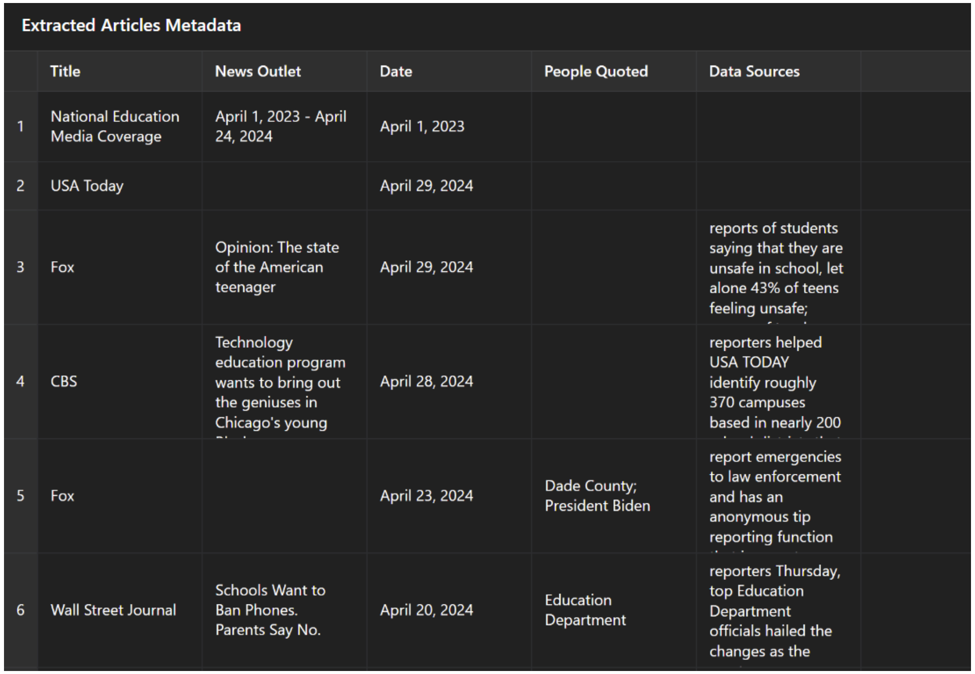
Step 1: Deciding to Use the API vs Chat

Several indicators that the team should use the API and not the chat interface:

1. **Volume of content to be analyzed:** We received nearly 1600 articles in two packages of 800+ page Word documents 🫠

2. **Repetitive quality of the analysis:** Each article varied in its contents, but the analysis itself (extracting metadata and coding it to a theme) would stay the same across every article

3. **High-quality but inconsistent responses from chat interface:** In tests, various models of ChatGPT could complete the analysis on 5-10 articles, but not on an entire article package, signaling that the models had the *capability*, but not the *capacity*



Extracted Articles Metadata

	Title	News Outlet	Date	People Quoted	Data Sources
1	National Education Media Coverage	April 1, 2023 - April 24, 2024	April 1, 2023		
2	USA Today		April 29, 2024		
3	Fox	Opinion: The state of the American teenager	April 29, 2024		reports of students saying that they are unsafe in school, let alone 43% of teens feeling unsafe;
4	CBS	Technology education program wants to bring out the geniuses in Chicago's young	April 28, 2024		reporters helped USA TODAY identify roughly 370 campuses based in nearly 200
5	Fox		April 23, 2024	Dade County; President Biden	report emergencies to law enforcement and has an anonymous tip reporting function
6	Wall Street Journal	Schools Want to Ban Phones. Parents Say No.	April 20, 2024	Education Department	reporters Thursday, top Education Department officials hailed the changes as the

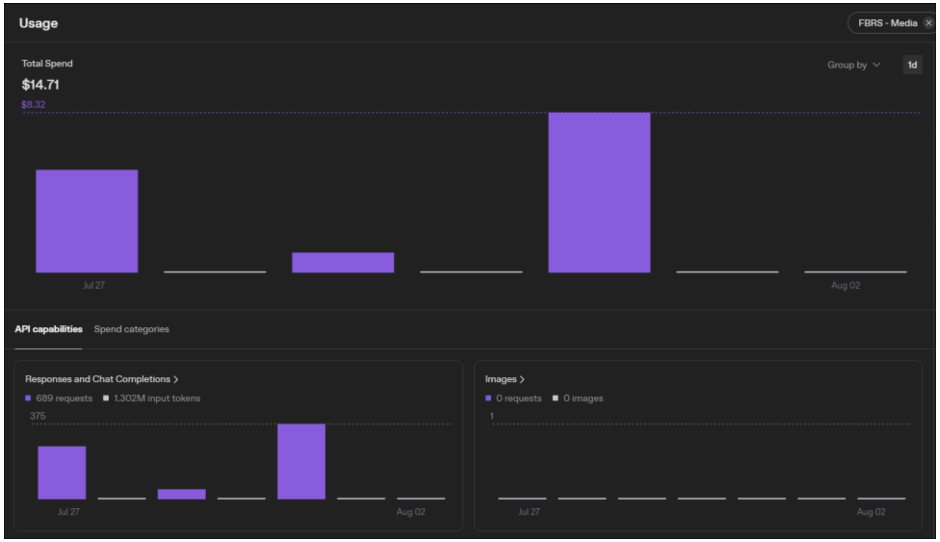
I tried probably every single OpenAI LLM available in July 2025 (pre-GPT-5, so that included 4o, o1, 4.1, 4.5, and o3) and most of them could pull out the metadata I wanted into a table, but only for the first 10 articles. The fact that it could do it, but not do it on 500 articles told me that it was possible to use AI, but we had to find a different way.

Step 2: Setting Up the Connection

Accessing OpenAI's models through its **API uses a different billing platform** than the chat interface

That means to use the API through a Bellwether account, you **have to contact the tech team to get set up**, which looks like:

1. Tech team created a new "Project" within the Bellwether workspace
   - this helps to categorize API calls, track usage, and allows bill projects accordingly
2. Developer (me) created an **API Key**
   - API Keys are used in every API request to tell OpenAI 1) who is sending the request, and 2) which project and workspace this belongs to



This is a sample report of my usage (only for the media analysis) from the week of 7/27/25 – 08/02/25). This type of disaggregated report is only possible if we get properly set-up on the backend.

Each team member using the API should create their OWN API key and store it somewhere safe. ***Do not share your API key, even among team members – that's like giving away your passport.***

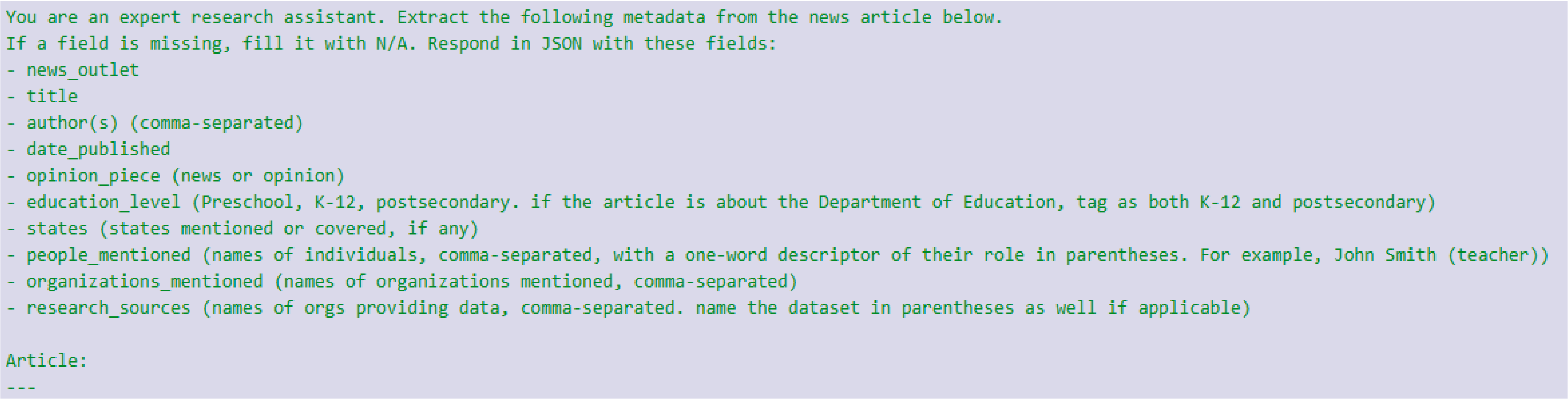
Step 3: Writing the Prompt

The actual prompt sent to the GenAI model is in natural language.

- There might be certain parts of a prompt you might tweak (ex: respond in JSON format), but the message itself is written in plain English.

Write the prompt carefully.

- Because the prompt will likely stay the same for every API call, it becomes extremely important to have a well-crafted prompt that can account for edge cases
- For the media analysis, the initial prompts included input from the entire team, as well as refinements from ChatGPT itself



```
You are an expert research assistant. Extract the following metadata from the news article below.
If a field is missing, fill it with N/A. Respond in JSON with these fields:
- news_outlet
- title
- author(s) (comma-separated)
- date_published
- opinion_piece (news or opinion)
- education_level (Preschool, K-12, postsecondary. if the article is about the Department of Education, tag as both K-12 and postsecondary)
- states (states mentioned or covered, if any)
- people_mentioned (names of individuals, comma-separated, with a one-word descriptor of their role in parentheses. For example, John Smith (teacher))
- organizations_mentioned (names of organizations mentioned, comma-separated)
- research_sources (names of orgs providing data, comma-separated. name the dataset in parentheses as well if applicable)

Article:
---
```

Step 4: Preparing the Request (coding)

Although the prompt uses natural language, it **requires code to transport the request through the API to the AI model.**

- **The language itself can vary:**
  - Most software developers would use languages like Java, C++, or Python.
  - Data analysts have our languages like R, Stata, or SPSS.
  - Some languages can span both use cases (Python).
- **But each language typically has a package of prebuilt codes that connect to APIs:**
  - For the media analysis, I used Python and its corresponding openai package
  - For R users, Alex has used the ellmr package

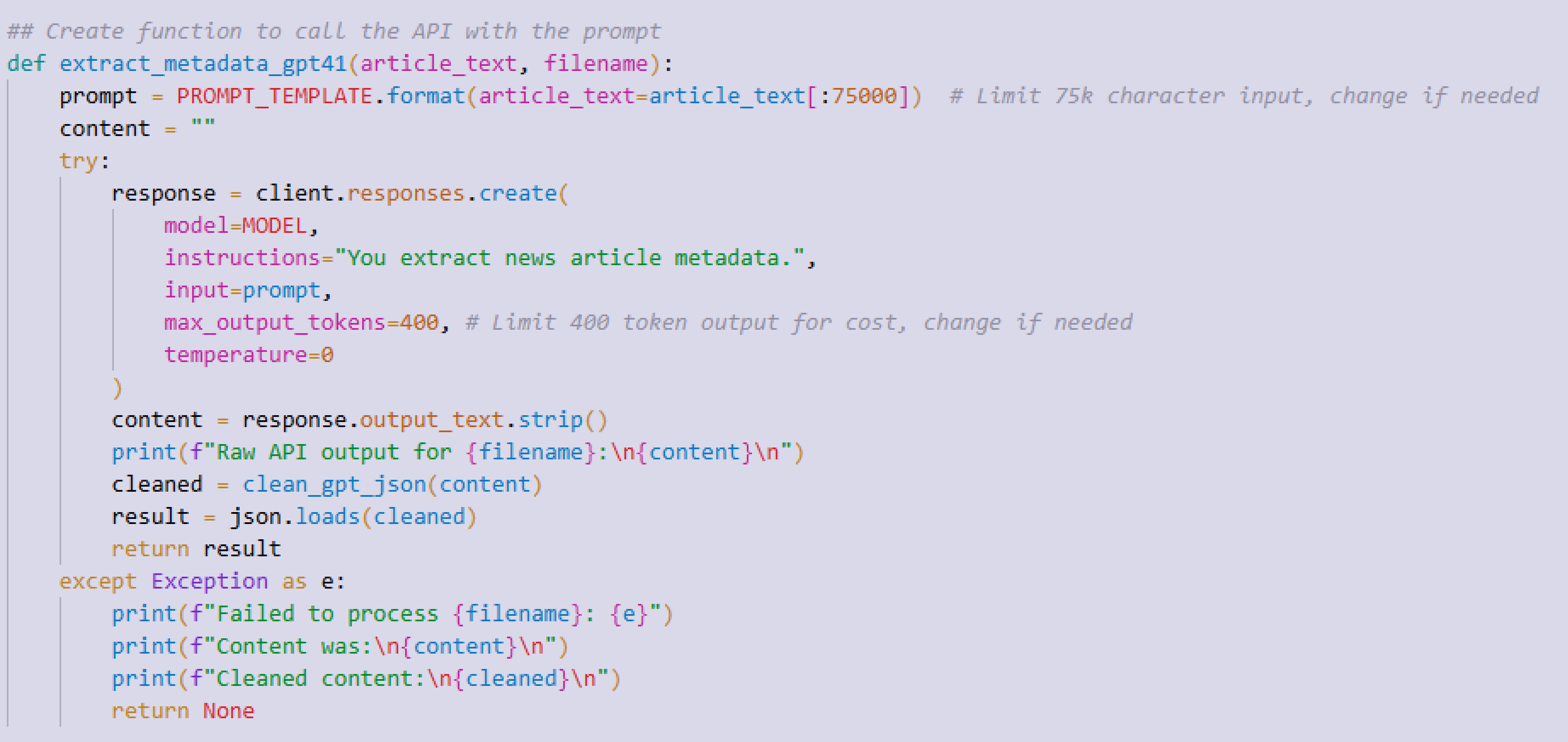
😟 Unfortunately, APIs do not work without programming, so using code is not negotiable…

BUT

😎 You can ask ChatGPT to write code for you, a process you might have heard referred to as "vibe-coding"

🚩 If you have *no experience* coding, you should get a second (human) opinion from someone familiar with the language, or you may inadvertently end up with security risks. But for those with *some* coding experience, using AI to debug or draft code is very useful and common.

Example: Python function to call API using prompt

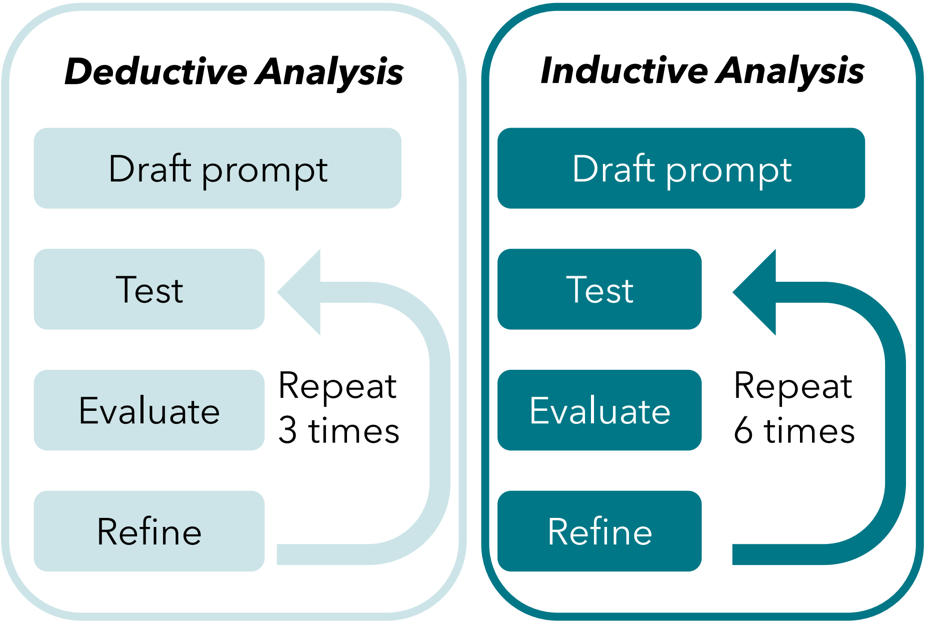


```python
## Create function to call the API with the prompt
def extract_metadata_gpt41(article_text, filename):
    prompt = PROMPT_TEMPLATE.format(article_text=article_text[:75000])  # Limit 75k character input, change if needed
    content = ""
    try:
        response = client.responses.create(
            model=MODEL,
            instructions="You extract news article metadata.",
            input=prompt,
            max_output_tokens=400, # Limit 400 token output for cost, change if needed
            temperature=0
        )
        content = response.output_text.strip()
        print(f"Raw API output for {filename}:\n{content}\n")
        cleaned = clean_gpt_json(content)
        result = json.loads(cleaned)
        return result
    except Exception as e:
        print(f"Failed to process {filename}: {e}")
        print(f"Content was:\n{content}\n")
        print(f"Cleaned content:\n{cleaned}\n")
        return None
```

Step 5: Build and Conduct Testing Cycles

1. **Choose a subset of your inputs to test**: this could be a random sample, or a carefully curated set that represents different use cases
2. **Consider what you want from the AI outputs**:
   - Are the data straightforward enough that you can easily see if the AI is correct?
   - If not, what constitutes a "high-quality" output for each case?
3. **Set a "minimum acceptable" threshold of quality**: How will you know if the output is "good enough"?
4. **Run the test**!
5. **Evaluate the outputs**: assess weaknesses, and refine your prompt or code as needed
6. **Rinse and repeat #4-5** until you reach the desired threshold of quality

Different types of outputs will require different levels of effort to both verify quality and refine prompting to get to "high quality."
The media analysis had two workstreams with different outputs and different levels of testing:

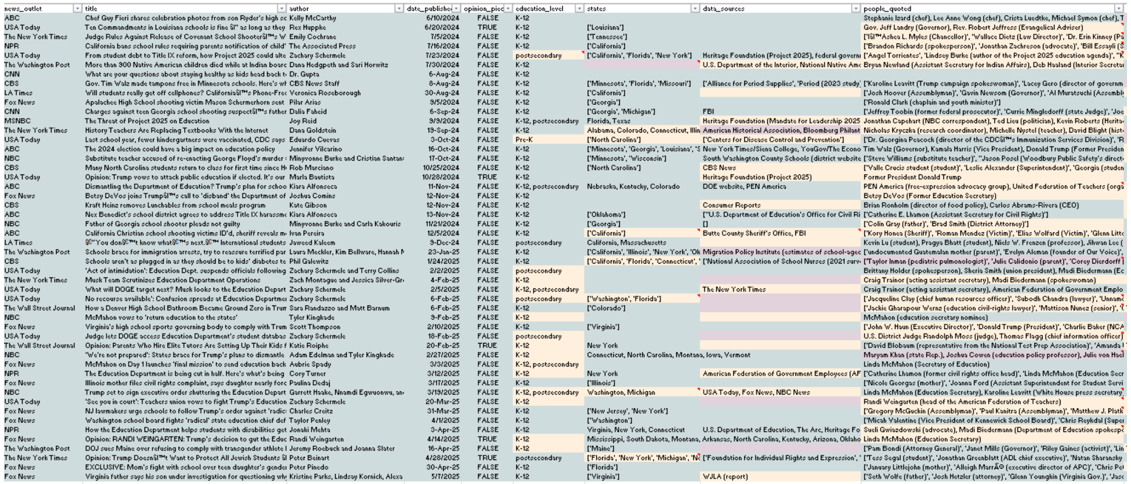


If the analysis you're conducting needs to be especially rigorous (e.g., for a field-facing publication), consult the evaluation team on what thresholds of quality are generally accepted.

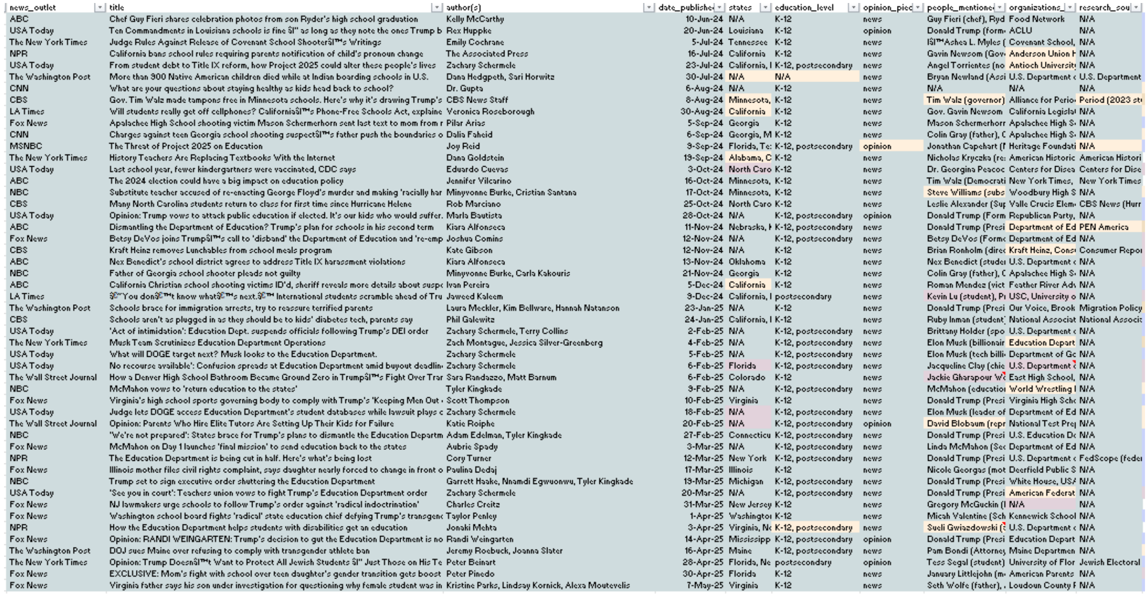
Example: Evaluating Output Quality for Media Analysis

To the right are the results from our first prompt asking the AI to extract hard metadata (title, news outlet, region, etc.).

Green boxes are where AI got it correct, yellow boxes are where AI was semi-correct, and red boxes are where the AI was completely wrong.



news_outlet	title	author	date_publishe	opinion_piec	education_level	states	data_sources	people_quoted
ABC	Chef Guy Fieri shares celebration photos from son Ryder's high sc	Kelly McCarthy	6/10/2024	FALSE	K-12			Stephanie Izard (chef), Lee Anne Wong (chef), Crista Luedtke, Michael Symon (chef), T
USA Today	Ten Commandments in Louisiana schools is fine âl" as long as they	Rex Huppke	6/20/2024	TRUE	K-12	['Louisiana']		Gov. Jeff Landry (Governor), Rev. Robert Jeffress (Evangelical Adviser)
The New York Times	Judge Rules Against Release of Covenant School Shooterâl™s W	Emily Cochrane	7/5/2024	FALSE	K-12	['Tennessee']		['lâl™Ashea L. Myles (Chancellor)', 'Wallace Dietz (Law Director)', 'Dr. Erin Kinney (Pa
NPR	California bans school rules requiring parents notification of child'	The Associated Press	7/16/2024	FALSE	K-12	['California']		['Brandon Richards (spokesperson)', 'Jonathan Zachreson (advocate)', 'Bill Essayli (S
USA Today	From student debt to Title IX reform, how Project 2025 could alte	Zachary Schermele	7/23/2024	FALSE	postsecondary	['California', 'Florida', 'New York']	Heritage Foundation (Project 2025), federal governi	['Angel Torrientes', 'Lindsey Burke (author of the Project 2025 education agenda)', "K
The Washington Post	More than 900 Native American children died while at Indian boarc	Dana Hedgpeth and Sari Horwitz	7/30/2024	FALSE	K-12		U.S. Department of the Interior, National Native Amc	Bryan Newland (Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs), Deb Haaland (Interior Secretar
CNN	What are your questions about staying healthy as kids head back t	Dr. Gupta	6-Aug-24	FALSE	K-12			
CBS	Gov. Tim Walz made tampons free in Minnesota schools. Here's wh	CBS News Staff	8-Aug-24	FALSE	K-12	['Minnesota', 'Florida', 'Missouri']	['Alliance for Period Supplies', 'Period (2023 study)'	['Karoline Leavitt (Trump campaign spokeswoman)', 'Lacey Gero (director of governm
LA Times	Will students really get off cellphones? Californiaâl™s Phone-Free	Veronica Roseborough	30-Aug-24	FALSE	K-12	['California']		['Josh Hoover (Assemblyman)', 'Gavin Newsom (Governor)', 'Al Muratsuchi (Assembly
Fox News	Apalachee High School shooting victim Mason Schermerhorn sent	Pilar Arias	9/5/2024	FALSE	K-12	['Georgia']		['Ronald Clark (chaplain and youth minister)']
CNN	Charges against teen Georgia school shooting suspectâl™s father	Dalia Faheid	6-Sep-24	FALSE	K-12	['Georgia', 'Michigan']	FBI	['Jeffrey Toobin (former federal prosecutor)', 'Currie Mingledorff (state Judge)', 'Joe
MSNBC	The Threat of Project 2025 on Education	Joy Reid	9/9/2024	FALSE	K-12, postsecondary	Florida, Texas	Heritage Foundation (Mandate for Leadership 2025	Jonathan Capehart (NBC correspondent), Ted Lieu (politician), Kevin Roberts (Herita
The New York Times	History Teachers Are Replacing Textbooks With the Internet	Dana Goldstein	19-Sep-24	FALSE	K-12	Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Illin	American Historical Association, Bloomberg Philant	Nicholas Kryczka (research coordinator), Michelle Nystel (teacher), David Blight (hist
USA Today	Last school year, fewer kindergartners were vaccinated, CDC says	Eduardo Cuevas	3-Oct-24	FALSE	Pre-K	['North Carolina']	['Centers for Disease Control and Prevention']	['Dr. Georgina Peacock (director of the CDCâl™s Immunization Services Division)', 'R
ABC	The 2024 election could have a big impact on education policy	Jennifer Vilcarino	16-Oct-24	FALSE	K-12	['Minnesota', 'Georgia', 'Louisiana', 'S	New York Times/Siena College, YouGov/The Econo	Tim Walz (Governor), Kamala Harris (Vice President), Donald Trump (Former Presiden
NBC	Substitute teacher accused of re-enacting George Floyd's murder :	Minyvonne Burke and Cristian Santan:	17-Oct-24	FALSE	K-12	['Minnesota', 'Wisconsin']	South Washington County Schools (district website	['Steve Williams (substitute teacher)', "Jason Posel (Woodbury Public Safety's direct
CBS	Many North Carolina students return to class for first time since H	Rob Marciano	10/25/2024	FALSE	K-12	['North Carolina']	CBS News	['Valle Crucis student (student)', 'Leslie Alexander (Superintendent)', 'Georgia (studen
USA Today	Opinion: Trump vows to attack public education if elected. It's our	Marla Bautista	10/28/2024	TRUE	K-12		Heritage Foundation (Project 2025)	Former President Donald Trump
ABC	Dismantling the Department of Education? Trump's plan for schoo	Kiara Alfonseca	11-Nov-24	FALSE	K-12, postsecondary	Nebraska, Kentucky, Colorado	DOE website, PEN America	PEN America (free-expression advocacy group), United Federation of Teachers (orga
Fox News	Betsy DeVos joins Trumpâl™s call to 'disband' the Department of	Joshua Comins	12-Nov-24	FALSE	K-12			Betsy DeVos (Former Education Secretary)
CBS	Kraft Heinz removes Lunchables from school meals program	Kate Gibson	12-Nov-24	FALSE	K-12		Consumer Reports	Brian Ronholm (director of food policy), Carlos Abrams-Rivera (CEO)
ABC	Nex Benedict's school district agrees to address Title IX harassmc	Kiara Alfonseca	13-Nov-24	FALSE	K-12	['Oklahoma']	["U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Ri	['Catherine E. Lhamon (Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights)']
NBC	Father of Georgia school shooter pleads not guilty	Minyvonne Burke and Carla Kakouris	11/21/2024	FALSE	K-12	['Georgia']	[]	['Colin Gray (father)', 'Brad Smith (District Attorney)']
ABC	California Christian school shooting victims ID'd, sheriff reveals m	Ivan Pereira	12/5/2024	FALSE	K-12	['California']	Butte County Sheriff's Office, FBI	['Kory Honea (Sheriff)', 'Roman Mendez (Victim)', 'Elias Wolfard (Victim)', 'Glenn Litt
LA Times	â€˜You donâ€™t know whatâ€™s next.â€™ International students	Jaweed Kaleem	9-Dec-24	FALSE	postsecondary	California, Massachusetts		Kevin Lu (student), Pragya Bhatt (student), Niels W. Frenzen (professor), Jihwan Lee (
The Washington Post	Schools brace for immigration arrests, try to reassure terrified par	Laura Meckler, Kim Bellware, Hannah M	23-Jan-25	FALSE	K-12	['California', 'Illinois', 'New York', 'Ok	Migration Policy Institute (estimates of school-agec	['undocumented Guatemalan mother (parent)', 'Evelyn Aleman (founder of Our Voice)',
CBS	Schools aren't as plugged in as they should be to kids' diabetes te	Phil Galewitz	1/24/2025	FALSE	K-12	['California', 'Florida', 'Connecticut', '	['National Association of School Nurses (2021 surv	['Taylor Inman (pediatric pulmonologist)', 'Julie Calidonio (parent)', 'Corey Dierdorff
USA Today	'Act of intimidation': Education Dept. suspends officials following	Zachary Schermele and Terry Collins	2/2/2025	FALSE	postsecondary			Brittany Holder (spokesperson), Sheria Smith (union president), Madi Biedermann (Ec
The New York Times	Musk Team Scrutinizes Education Department Operations	Zach Montague and Jessica Silver-Gr	4-Feb-25	FALSE	K-12			Craig Trainor (acting assistant secretary), Madi Biedermann (spokeswoman)
USA Today	What will DOGE target next? Musk looks to the Education Depart	Zachary Schermele	2/5/2025	FALSE	K-12, postsecondary		The New York Times	Craig Trainor (acting assistant secretary), American Federation of Government Emplo
USA Today	No recourse available': Confusion spreads at Education Departme	Zachary Schermele	6-Feb-25	FALSE	postsecondary	['Washington', 'Florida']		['Jacqueline Clay (chief human resources officer)', 'Subodh Chandra (lawyer)', 'Unnam
The Wall Street Journal	How a Denver High School Bathroom Became Ground Zero in Trum	Sara Randazzo and Matt Barnum	6-Feb-25	FALSE	K-12	['Colorado']		['Jackie Gharapour Wernz (education civil-rights lawyer)', 'Mattison Nunez (senior)', '(
NBC	McMahon vows to 'return education to the states'	Tyler Kingkade	9-Feb-25	FALSE	K-12			McMahon (education secretary nominee)
Fox News	Virginia's high school sports governing body to comply with Trum	Scott Thompson	2/10/2025	FALSE	K-12	['Virginia']		['John W. Haun (Executive Director)', 'Donald Trump (President)', 'Charlie Baker (NCA
USA Today	Judge lets DOGE access Education Department's student databas	Zachary Schermele	18-Feb-25	FALSE	postsecondary			U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss (judge), Thomas Flagg (chief information officer)
The Wall Street Journal	Opinion: Parents Who Hire Elite Tutors Are Setting Up Their Kids f	Katie Roiphe	20-Feb-25	TRUE	K-12	New York		['David Blobaum (representative from the National Test Prep Association)', 'Amanda (
NBC	'We're not prepared': States brace for Trump's plans to dismantle	Adam Edelman and Tyler Kingkade	2/27/2025	FALSE	K-12	Connecticut, North Carolina, Montana, Iowa, Vermont		Maryam Khan (state Rep.), Joshua Cowen (education policy professor), Julie von Hael
Fox News	McMahon on Day 1 launches 'final mission' to send education back	Aubrie Spady	3/3/2025	FALSE	K-12, postsecondary			Linda McMahon (Secretary of Education)
NPR	The Education Department is being cut in half. Here's what's being	Cory Turner	3/12/2025	FALSE	K-12	New York	American Federation of Government Employees (AF	['Catherine Lhamon (former civil rights office head)', 'Linda McMahon (Education Secr
Fox News	Illinois mother files civil rights complaint, says daughter nearly forc	Paulina Dedaj	3/17/2025	FALSE	K-12	['Illinois']		['Nicole Georgas (mother)', 'Joanna Ford (Assistant Superintendent for Student Servi
NBC	Trump set to sign executive order shuttering the Education Depart	Garrett Haake, Nnamdi Egwuonwu, an	3/19/2025	FALSE	K-12, postsecondary	Washington, Michigan	USA Today, Fox News, NBC News	Linda McMahon (Education Secretary), Karoline Leavitt (White House press secretary)
USA Today	'See you in court': Teachers union vows to fight Trump's Education	Zachary Schermele	20-Mar-25	FALSE	K-12			Randi Weingarten (head of the American Federation of Teachers)
Fox News	NJ lawmakers urge schools to follow Trump's order against 'radic:	Charles Creitz	31-Mar-25	FALSE	K-12	['New Jersey', 'New York']		['Gregory McGuckin (Assemblyman)', 'Paul Kanitra (Assemblyman)', 'Matthew J. Platk
Fox News	Washington school board fights 'radical' state education chief def	Taylor Penley	4/1/2025	FALSE	K-12	['Washington']		['Micah Valentine (Vice President of Kennewick School Board)', 'Chris Reykdal (Super
NPR	How the Education Department helps students with disabilities get	Jonaki Mehta	3-Apr-25	FALSE	K-12	Virginia, New York, Connecticut	U.S. Department of Education, The Arc, Heritage Fo	Sueli Gwiazdowski (advocate), Madi Biedermann (Department of Education spokesp
Fox News	Opinion: RANDI WEINGARTEN: Trump's decision to gut the Educ	Randi Weingarten	4/14/2025	TRUE	K-12	Mississippi, South Dakota, Montana, Arkansas, North Carolina, Kentucky, Arizona, Oklaho		Linda McMahon (Education Secretary)
The Washington Post	DOJ sues Maine over refusing to comply with transgender athlete l	Jeremy Roebuck and Joanna Slater	16-Apr-25	FALSE	K-12	['Maine']		['Pam Bondi (Attorney General)', 'Janet Mills (Governor)', 'Riley Gaines (activist)', 'Lin
The New York Times	Opinion: Trump Doesnâl™t Want to Protect All Jewish Students âl	Peter Beinart	4/28/2025	TRUE	postsecondary	['Florida', 'New York', 'Michigan', 'Nc	['Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression', '	['Tess Segal (student)', 'Jonathan Greenblatt (ADL chief executive)', 'Natan Sharansky
Fox News	EXCLUSIVE: Mom's fight with school over teen daughter's gende	Peter Pinedo	30-Apr-25	FALSE	K-12	['Florida']		['January Littlejohn (mother)', 'Alleigh MarrÃ© (executive director of APC)', 'Chris Pe
Fox News	Virginia father says his son under investigation for questioning wh	Kristine Parks, Lindsay Kornick, Alexa	5/7/2025	FALSE	K-12	['Virginia']	WJLA (report)	['Seth Wolfe (father)', 'Josh Hetzler (attorney)', 'Glenn Youngkin (Virginia Gov.)', 'Jas



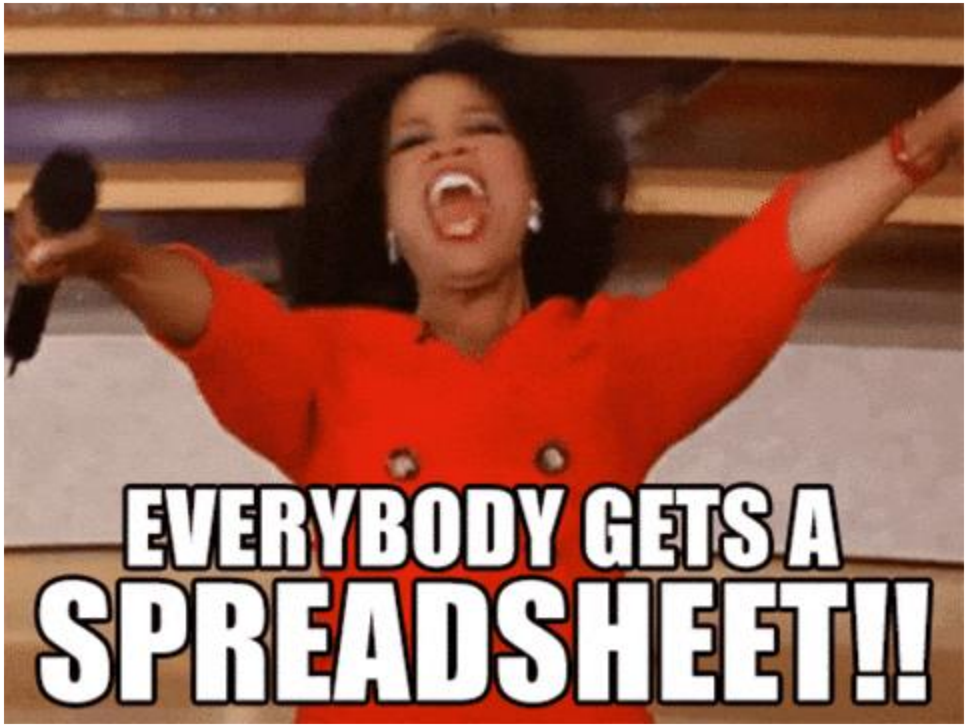
news_outlet	title	author(s)	date_publishe	states	education_level	opinion_piec	people_mentione	organizations_	research_sou
ABC	Chef Guy Fieri shares celebration photos from son Ryder's high school graduation	Kelly McCarthy	10-Jun-24	N/A	K-12	news	Guy Fieri (chef), Ryd	Food Network	N/A
USA Today	Ten Commandments in Louisiana schools is fine âl" as long as they note the ones Trump b	Rex Huppke	20-Jun-24	Louisiana	K-12	opinion	Donald Trump (form	ACLU	N/A
The New York Times	Judge Rules Against Release of Covenant School Shooterâl™s Writings	Emily Cochrane	5-Jul-24	Tennessee	K-12	news	lâl™Ashea L. Myles (	Covenant School,	N/A
NPR	California bans school rules requiring parents notification of child's pronoun change	The Associated Press	16-Jul-24	California	K-12	news	Gavin Newsom (Gov	Anderson Union H	N/A
USA Today	From student debt to Title IX reform, how Project 2025 could alter these people's lives	Zachary Schermele	23-Jul-24	California, I	K-12, postsecondary	news	Angel Torrientes (no	Antioch University	N/A
The Washington Post	More than 900 Native American children died while at Indian boarding schools in U.S.	Dana Hedgpeth, Sari Horwitz	30-Jul-24	N/A	N/A	news	Bryan Newland (Assi	U.S. Department (	U.S. Department
CNN	What are your questions about staying healthy as kids head back to school?	Dr. Gupta	6-Aug-24	N/A	K-12	news	N/A	N/A	N/A
CBS	Gov. Tim Walz made tampons free in Minnesota schools. Here's why it's drawing Trump's	CBS News Staff	8-Aug-24	Minnesota,	K-12	news	Tim Walz (governor)	Alliance for Perio	Period (2023 stu
LA Times	Will students really get off cellphones? Californiaâl™s Phone-Free Schools Act, explaine	Veronica Roseborough	30-Aug-24	California	K-12	news	Gov. Gavin Newsom	California Legislat	N/A
Fox News	Apalachee High School shooting victim Mason Schermerhorn sent last text to mom from r	Pilar Arias	5-Sep-24	Georgia	K-12	news	Mason Schermerhorr	Apalachee High S	N/A
CNN	Charges against teen Georgia school shooting suspectâl™s father push the boundaries o	Dalia Faheid	6-Sep-24	Georgia, M	K-12	news	Colin Gray (father), C	Apalachee High S	N/A
MSNBC	The Threat of Project 2025 on Education	Joy Reid	9-Sep-24	Florida, Te:	K-12, postsecondary	opinion	Jonathan Capehart (I	Heritage Foundati	N/A
The New York Times	History Teachers Are Replacing Textbooks With the Internet	Dana Goldstein	19-Sep-24	Alabama, C	K-12	news	Nicholas Kryczka (re:	American Historic	American Histori
USA Today	Last school year, fewer kindergartners were vaccinated, CDC says	Eduardo Cuevas	3-Oct-24	North Caro	K-12	news	Dr. Georgina Peacoc	Centers for Disea	Centers for Dise
ABC	The 2024 election could have a big impact on education policy	Jennifer Vilcarino	16-Oct-24	Minnesota,	K-12	news	Tim Walz (Democrati	New York Times,	New York Times
NBC	Substitute teacher accused of re-enacting George Floyd's murder and making 'racially har	Minyvonne Burke, Cristian Santana	17-Oct-24	Minnesota,	K-12	news	Steve Williams (subs	Woodbury High S	N/A
CBS	Many North Carolina students return to class for first time since Hurricane Helene	Rob Marciano	25-Oct-24	North Caro	K-12	news	Leslie Alexander (Sup	Valle Crucis Elem	CBS News (Hurr
USA Today	Opinion: Trump vows to attack public education if elected. It's our kids who would suffer.	Marla Bautista	28-Oct-24	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	opinion	Donald Trump (Form	Republican Party,	N/A
ABC	Dismantling the Department of Education? Trump's plan for schools in his second term	Kiara Alfonseca	11-Nov-24	Nebraska, I	K-12, postsecondary	news	Donald Trump (Presi	Department of Ed	PEN America
Fox News	Betsy DeVos joins Trumpâl™s call to 'disband' the Department of Education and 're-emp	Joshua Comins	12-Nov-24	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	news	Betsy DeVos (Form	Department of Ed	N/A
CBS	Kraft Heinz removes Lunchables from school meals program	Kate Gibson	12-Nov-24	N/A	K-12	news	Brian Ronholm (direc	Kraft Heinz, Cons	Consumer Repor
ABC	Nex Benedict's school district agrees to address Title IX harassment violations	Kiara Alfonseca	13-Nov-24	Oklahoma	K-12	news	Nex Benedict (studer	U.S. Department (	N/A
NBC	Father of Georgia school shooter pleads not guilty	Minyvonne Burke, Carla Kakouris	21-Nov-24	Georgia	K-12	news	Colin Gray (father), C	Apalachee High S	N/A
ABC	California Christian school shooting victims ID'd, sheriff reveals more details about susp	Ivan Pereira	5-Dec-24	California	K-12	news	Roman Mendez (vict	Feather River Adv	N/A
LA Times	â€˜You donâ€™t know whatâ€™s next.â€™ International students scramble ahead of Tru	Jaweed Kaleem	9-Dec-24	California, I	postsecondary	news	Kevin Lu (student), Pr	USC, University o	N/A
The Washington Post	Schools brace for immigration arrests, try to reassure terrified parents	Laura Meckler, Kim Bellware, Hannah Natanson	23-Jan-25	N/A	K-12	news	Donald Trump (Presi	Our Voice, Brook	Migration Policy
CBS	Schools aren't as plugged in as they should be to kids' diabetes tech, parents say	Phil Galewitz	24-Jan-25	California, I	K-12	news	Ruby Inman (student)	National Associat	National Associa
USA Today	'Act of intimidation': Education Dept. suspends officials following Trump's DEI order	Zachary Schermele, Terry Collins	2-Feb-25	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	news	Brittany Holder (spo	U.S. Department (	N/A
The New York Times	Musk Team Scrutinizes Education Department Operations	Zach Montague, Jessica Silver-Greenberg	4-Feb-25	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	news	Elon Musk (billionair	Education Depart	N/A
USA Today	What will DOGE target next? Musk looks to the Education Department.	Zachary Schermele	5-Feb-25	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	news	Elon Musk (tech billi	Department of Gc	N/A
USA Today	No recourse available': Confusion spreads at Education Department amid buyout deadlin	Zachary Schermele	6-Feb-25	Florida	K-12, postsecondary	news	Jacqueline Clay (chie	U.S. Department (	N/A
The Wall Street Journal	How a Denver High School Bathroom Became Ground Zero in Trumpâl™s Fight Over Trar	Sara Randazzo, Matt Barnum	6-Feb-25	Colorado	K-12	news	Jackie Gharapour W	East High School,	N/A
NBC	McMahon vows to 'return education to the states'	Tyler Kingkade	9-Feb-25	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	news	McMahon (educatio	World Wrestling I	N/A
Fox News	Virginia's high school sports governing body to comply with Trump's 'Keeping Men Out	Scott Thompson	10-Feb-25	Virginia	K-12	news	Donald Trump (Presi	Virginia High Schc	N/A
USA Today	Judge lets DOGE access Education Department's student databases while lawsuit plays c	Zachary Schermele	18-Feb-25	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	news	Elon Musk (leader of	Department of Ed	N/A
The Wall Street Journal	Opinion: Parents Who Hire Elite Tutors Are Setting Up Their Kids for Failure	Katie Roiphe	20-Feb-25	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	opinion	David Blobaum (repr	National Test Prep	N/A
NBC	'We're not prepared': States brace for Trump's plans to dismantle the Education Departm	Adam Edelman, Tyler Kingkade	27-Feb-25	Connecticu	K-12, postsecondary	news	Donald Trump (Presi	U.S. Education Dc	N/A
Fox News	McMahon on Day 1 launches 'final mission' to send education back to the states	Aubrie Spady	3-Mar-25	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	news	Linda McMahon (Sec	Department of Ed	N/A
NPR	The Education Department is being cut in half. Here's what's being lost	Cory Turner	12-Mar-25	New York	K-12, postsecondary	news	Donald Trump (Presi	U.S. Department (	FedScope (feder
Fox News	Illinois mother files civil rights complaint, says daughter nearly forced to change in front o	Paulina Dedaj	17-Mar-25	Illinois	K-12	news	Nicole Georgas (mot	Deerfield Public S	N/A
NBC	Trump set to sign executive order shuttering the Education Department	Garrett Haake, Nnamdi Egwuonwu, Tyler Kingkade	19-Mar-25	Michigan	K-12, postsecondary	news	Donald Trump (Presi	White House, USA	N/A
USA Today	'See you in court': Teachers union vows to fight Trump's Education Department order	Zachary Schermele	20-Mar-25	N/A	K-12, postsecondary	news	Donald Trump (Presi	American Federat	N/A
Fox News	NJ lawmakers urge schools to follow Trump's order against 'radical indoctrination'	Charles Creitz	31-Mar-25	New Jersey	K-12	news	Gregory McGuckin (I	N/A	N/A
Fox News	Washington school board fights 'radical' state education chief defying Trump's transgenc	Taylor Penley	1-Apr-25	Washingtor	K-12	news	Micah Valentine (Sch	Kennewick School	N/A
NPR	How the Education Department helps students with disabilities get an education	Jonaki Mehta	3-Apr-25	Virginia, Nc	K-12, postsecondary	news	Sueli Gwiazdowski (:	U.S. Department (	N/A
Fox News	Opinion: RANDI WEINGARTEN: Trump's decision to gut the Education Department is no	Randi Weingarten	14-Apr-25	Mississipp	K-12, postsecondary	opinion	Donald Trump (Presi	Education Depart	N/A
The Washington Post	DOJ sues Maine over refusing to comply with transgender athlete ban	Jeremy Roebuck, Joanna Slater	16-Apr-25	Maine	K-12, postsecondary	news	Pam Bondi (Attorney	Maine Departmen	N/A
The New York Times	Opinion: Trump Doesnâl™t Want to Protect All Jewish Students âl" Just Those on His Te	Peter Beinart	28-Apr-25	Florida, Ne	postsecondary	opinion	Tess Segal (student)	University of Flor	Jewish Electoral
Fox News	EXCLUSIVE: Mom's fight with school over teen daughter's gender transition gets boost	Peter Pinedo	30-Apr-25	Florida	K-12	news	January Littlejohn (m	American Parents	N/A
Fox News	Virginia father says his son under investigation for questioning why female student was in	Kristine Parks, Lindsay Kornick, Alexa Moutevelis	7-May-25	Virginia	K-12	news	Seth Wolfe (father), .	Loudoun County F	N/A

To the left are the results after we refined the prompt. The amount of green has increased and yellow/red has decreased, signaling that the new prompt leads to higher quality outputs.

Step 6: Full Send 🫡

For the media analysis, we had a quality threshold of 80% accuracy, as compared to human answers, which is based on a standard accepted widely in social sciences for content analyses (shout-out Nora!).

Once we hit that threshold, we ran both prompts on the full set of 1579 articles, and in return got lovely .csv files, which Nora then analyzed further to distill trends.

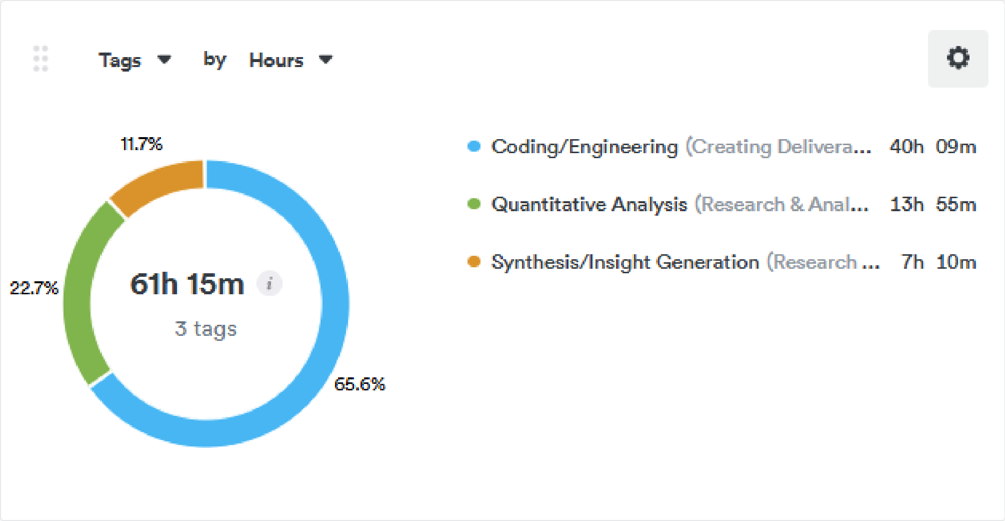


Seems like a lot of work. Is it worth it?

I spent ~40 hours coding the API calls, and ~60 hours total on drafting, testing, evaluating, and refining the analysis + its outputs.

Nora likely spent another ~20 helping with evaluating outputs and refining the prompts.

Total Hours Clocked with AI: 80



Tags by Hours

● Coding/Engineering (Creating Delivera...	40h 09m
● Quantitative Analysis (Research & Anal...	13h 55m
● Synthesis/Insight Generation (Research ...	7h 10m

Without AI, however, Nora and I would have been reading each article manually and extracting metadata and themes into a spreadsheet.

We did this for a sample of articles, and I averaged ~10 mins/article.

Total Hours Likely Required without AI: 263

	~10 mins. per article
X	1,579 articles
	15,790 minutes
/	60 mins. per hour
	263 hours

Q&A