

Assignment 1: Principles of Wise and Effective AI Use

1 Instructions

In the introductory lectures, we discussed the wise and effective use of Large Language Models (LLMs). For this first assignment, you will bridge the gap between abstract lecture concepts and real-world application. You will author a **Plaintext Markdown Report** that articulates three distinct principles for using LLMs effectively and provides concrete examples of these principles in action.

1.1 Submission Requirements

You must submit two components to Gradescope:

1. **The Report:** A plaintext Markdown¹ document which you will paste directly into a Gradescope submission text box. (See <https://www.markdownguide.org/cheat-sheet/> for a quick introduction to Markdown. Extended syntax including tables and LaTeX equations are also allowed.) This contains the 5 sections described below and is the primary artifact for grading.
2. **Supplemental Material:** You must upload the raw materials used to create your report (e.g., chat transcripts, PDFs of articles, manual notes).

¹If you are unfamiliar with Markdown, there are many resources online. A simple starting point is <https://www.markdownguide.org/cheat-sheet/>. You should only need to use basic Markdown syntax (headers, bold/italic text) for this assignment. Extended syntax such as tables and LaTeX equations are also allowed. However, images, figures, or other embedded content should not be included and may result in penalties if included.

- **Upload Method:** Please upload these as individual files directly to the Gradescope assignment.
- *Note: This supplemental material is not graded for content but is required for verification.*

Character Limit: 5,000 characters for the `report.md` file. (This is roughly 1 page of single-spaced text).

2 Content Requirements

Your report must be organized into exactly **five sections** with Markdown headers (e.g., `# Section 1: ...`).

2.1 Section 1: Executive Summary & Key Insight

- **One Sentence Takeaway:** Start with a single, punchy sentence that encapsulates the most surprising, confusing, or impactful insight you gained from this assignment or the introductory lectures.
- **Summary Paragraph:** A short paragraph (3-5 sentences) summarizing the core themes of your report.

2.2 Sections 2, 3, and 4: The Principles

For the next three sections, you will detail **three distinct principles** for wise AI usage.

- **Source:** You may select principles directly from the lecture slides (e.g., “The Multiplier Principle,” “AI as a Book/Discernment,” “The Illusion of Competence”) OR you may propose a novel principle based on your own experience and research.
- **Structure for EACH Section:**
 1. **The Principle:** State the principle clearly.
 2. **Definition:** Provide a brief explanation of what this principle means (1-2 sentences).
 3. **Positive Example:** Describe a concrete scenario—ideally drawn from a news story, research article, or specific personal project—where this principle was applied *well*. Explain *why* it was successful.
 4. **Negative Example:** Describe a concrete scenario where this principle was ignored or violated. Explain the negative outcome or risk incurred.

Note: Real-world examples (cited news stories, paper retractions, legal cases involving AI) are preferred over hypothetical scenarios.

2.3 Section 5: Personal Reflection

This section is for your personal thoughts on the process of completing this assignment and your broader relationship with AI tools.

- **Content:** There are no wrong answers here, but you must be honest and introspective.
- **Guiding Questions (Optional):**
 - Did you use an LLM to help write this report? If so, how did you use it?
 - If you chose *not* to use an LLM, what was that experience like?
 - How has your understanding of effective AI use evolved through this assignment?
 - What are the lessons you will take forward in your future interactions with AI tools?
 - Were there any challenges or surprises during this assignment?

3 Grading Rubric

Each of the five sections will be weighted equally (20% each).

Criterion	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Satisfactory (3)	Okay (2)	Poor (1)
Section 1: Insight & Summary	The takeaway is profound, specific, and memorable. The summary perfectly captures the essence of the report.	The takeaway is clear and relevant. The summary provides a good overview of the report.	The takeaway is somewhat generic. The summary is present but may be vague.	The takeaway is missing or the summary is disconnected from the rest of the report.	Section is missing or unintelligible.
Section 2: Principle 1	Principle is clearly defined. The positive and negative examples are concrete, highly relevant (preferably real-world), and clearly illustrate the principle.	Principle is defined. Examples are relevant but might be hypothetical or slightly generic. Connection to principle is clear.	Principle is defined but vague. Examples are present but weak or loosely related to the principle.	Principle is unclear. One or both examples are missing or do not fit the principle.	Section is missing or fails to define a principle.
Section 3: Principle 2	Principle is clearly defined. The positive and negative examples are concrete, highly relevant (preferably real-world), and clearly illustrate the principle.	Principle is defined. Examples are relevant but might be hypothetical or slightly generic. Connection to principle is clear.	Principle is defined but vague. Examples are present but weak or loosely related to the principle.	Principle is unclear. One or both examples are missing or do not fit the principle.	Section is missing or fails to define a principle.

Criterion	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Satisfactory (3)	Okay (2)	Poor (1)
Section 4: Principle 3	Principle is clearly defined. The positive and negative examples are concrete, highly relevant (preferably real-world), and clearly illustrate the principle.	Principle is defined. Examples are relevant but might be hypothetical or slightly generic. Connection to principle is clear.	Principle is defined but vague. Examples are present but weak or loosely related to the principle.	Principle is unclear. One or both examples are missing or do not fit the principle.	Section is missing or fails to define a principle.
Section 5: Personal Reflection	Reflection is deep, honest, and specific. It demonstrates genuine introspection regarding the student's process and interaction with AI.	Reflection is honest and covers the process, but may lack depth or specific details about the workflow.	Reflection is present but feels somewhat generic or dutiful (e.g., "I learned a lot").	Reflection is very brief, superficial, or does not address the student's actual process.	Section is missing.