

The AI Ladder — Worksheet

One line per exercise. Nobody collects this; it is your memory for the write-up at the end.

Do each exercise on the Ladder page at csunai.org/student and answer its question for yourself. Then write one line here: what surprised you, and what it got wrong. A minute each time. When all sixteen are done, draft your write-up on the last page. That write-up is the application.

Name (optional)

RUNG 1 · PLAY

01 Turn whatever you are reading into song lyrics

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

02 Make a concept explain something you actually do

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

03 Teach an idea from your major to a skeptic

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

RUNG 2 · DIRECT

04 Make it argue against itself

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

05 Rewrite the prompt, watch the answer change

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

06 Tell it how to talk to you — then check whether it listened

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

07 Have it quiz you until you find your gaps

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

The AI Ladder — Worksheet

Rungs 3 to 5. Climb in order; each rung assumes the one below it.

RUNG 3 · APPLY

08 Rehearse a hard conversation

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

09 Drill into a question you actually care about

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

10 Turn something you have written into a slide deck

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

RUNG 4 · INTERROGATE

11 Compare two AIs on the same question

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

12 Have it argue the side you reject

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

13 Mark the line: its recommendation, your judgment

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

RUNG 5 · VERIFY

14 Fact-check the AI, then check the checker

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

15 Trace a claim to its original source

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

16 Assess source credibility and publication bias

What surprised you, and what did it get wrong?

Your write-up

One to two pages, once, at the end. The only thing you turn in.

In your own words: what you tried, which exercises surprised you and how, and what you would now hand to AI without a second thought and what you would not let it near. Name one moment where it told you something and you decided it was wrong. Close with a line on how you used AI to write this write-up: which tool, for what, and what is yours. Be specific and name the exercises.

Not a rung-by-rung recap: your account of the whole climb. A person reads it.

Before you start

Read your sixteen lines from the top. Mark the two or three exercises you would tell someone about. Those are the ones to name. Do not recap the rest.

Draft here or in any document. When it is done, paste it into the application at csunai.org/student.