



AI ASSESSMENT SCALE Perkins, Furze, Roe, & MacVaugh (2024)		
1	NO AI	You must not use AI at any point during the assessment. You must demonstrate your core skills and knowledge
HIGH FRICTION		
<p>Why? This level is crucial for <i>authentic independent assessment</i> of your foundational skills and knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It reveals what you truly understand and can produce without any external cognitive scaffolding. • It requires deep retrieval, critical synthesis, and the development of your own internal problem-solving strategies, essential for becoming an independent learner and thinker. • It's where your core competency is directly measured. 		
<p>How to know that you are ready:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> You have demonstrated your understanding of the core concepts and/or content knowledge. <input type="checkbox"/> You have practiced the foundational skills required. <input type="checkbox"/> You can articulate the steps involved in a similar task without external prompts. 		
<p>What to watch out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An over-reliance on memory without true comprehension that impacts your ability to apply and/or transfer core concepts and/or skills. • Struggling to initiate or structure the task independently may indicate a need for additional practice, and/or strategies, or external support. This is a sign of unproductive friction and should prompt a conversation with your instructor. <p>What to aim for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A feeling of confidence and ownership over your independent knowledge and skills. • A deeper understanding of your own thought process and how you approach problem-solving with your own logic and strategies. • Embracing moments of struggle not as failures, but as essential opportunities for learning and growth. 		



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AI PLANNING

You may use AI for planning, idea development, and research. Your final submission should show how you have developed and refined these ideas.

MEDIUM-HIGH FRICTION

Why? This level introduces AI as a thought partner to *expand your own initial ideas and research scope*, but...

- still requires significant independent intellectual work in refining, critically selecting, and integrating the AI-generated output.

It helps you explore broader possibilities and identify key information while...

- maintaining the mental effort and iterative process of shaping a coherent argument or solution.

How to know that you are ready:

- ☐ You have demonstrated a clear understanding of the task's objectives and can formulate your own initial questions and/or approaches.
- ☐ You have demonstrated your ability to critically evaluate AI's suggestions for manufactured or inaccurate information ("hallucinations"), bias, and/or to distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information.

What to watch out for:

- Acceptance of AI's first suggestions without critical evaluation.
- Insufficient development of *your own* unique ideas, perspective, or structure.
- Allowing AI to dictate the entire planning process without critical intervention.

What to aim for:

- A deepened confidence in your ability to be a strategic thinker, effectively directing AI to support your unique goals.
- To actively integrate your own unique perspective into the AI-generated ideas, ensuring the final plan reflects your voice and intellectual stamp.
- To develop a strategic workflow for using AI, thoughtfully deciding *when* and *how* to engage with the tool to maximize its benefits without sacrificing your own critical judgment.



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AI COLLABORATION

You may use AI to assist with specific tasks such as drafting text, refining and evaluating your work. You must critically evaluate and modify any AI-generated content you use.

MEDIUM FRICTION

Why? This level leverages AI as a *powerful editor and generator*, allowing you to...

- focus on higher-order thinking like argumentation, logical flow, and nuanced expression.

The friction comes from your active role in...

- evaluating, modifying, and owning the final output, ensuring it aligns with your intent and academic standards. It enhances efficiency while still demanding your critical judgment.

How to know that you are ready:

- ☐ You have demonstrated strong critical thinking skills to evaluate AI's output for accuracy, bias, and alignment with your specific context.
- ☐ You have demonstrated an ability to clearly articulate *why* you are accepting or rejecting AI's suggestions.
- ☐ You have demonstrated a solid grasp of the subject matter to identify subtle errors or misinterpretations.

What to watch out for:

- Copy-pasting AI-generated content without critical review.
- Failing to integrate and maintain your own voice and unique insights.
- Not understanding *why* AI made certain suggestions.
- Using AI to mask a lack of fundamental understanding.

What to aim for:

- A deeper awareness of your own writing and thinking habits, revealed through the process of critically evaluating and refining AI's suggestions.
- To actively and deliberately shape your work, using AI to generate options but making all final decisions based on your own critical judgment, demonstrating that you are the final authority on the content and its purpose.
- To use AI as a tool for self-evaluation, challenging yourself to identify its errors and biases as a way to sharpen your own critical thinking and subject matter expertise.



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FULL AI

You may use AI extensively throughout your work either as you wish, or as specifically directed in your assessment. Focus on directing AI to achieve your goals while demonstrating your critical thinking.

MEDIUM-LOW FRICTION

Why? This level shifts the focus from individual content creation to *AI orchestration and strategic prompting*. The friction is in...

- designing effective prompts
- managing complex AI interactions
- synthesizing multiple AI outputs into a cohesive whole
- demonstrating advanced digital literacy and project management skills

It simulates real-world scenarios where AI is an integrated tool for complex problem-solving.

How to know that you are ready:

- ☐ You have demonstrated that you are highly proficient in using AI tools and understand their capabilities and limitations.
- ☐ You have demonstrated that you can formulate precise prompts to achieve specific outcomes.
- ☐ You have demonstrated that you are skilled at synthesizing information from various sources (including AI) and evaluating the overall quality and coherence of a project or other product.
- ☐ You can document and articulate the value of the process resulting in a final product.

What to watch out for:

- Allowing AI to make key decisions about the structure, tone, or content of the work without your conscious intervention.
- Inability to troubleshoot when AI doesn't produce desired results.
- Failing to demonstrate *your own* critical thinking and strategic decisions in the final output.
- Producing generic or unoriginal work due to over-reliance on AI patterns.

What to aim for:

- A deep confidence in your ability to synthesize information, strategically leveraging AI as a resource while maintaining your own intellectual authority.
- To act as the strategic director, consciously and deliberately making all key decisions about the workflow, prompts, and final synthesis of AI-generated content.
- To showcase your own unique strategic choices and original insights within the final product, ensuring the work reflects your creativity and intellectual stamp, not just what the AI generated.



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AI EXPLORATION

You should use AI creatively to solve the task, potentially co-designing new approaches with your instructor.

VARIABLE FRICTION

Why? This level pushes the boundaries of innovation and *human-AI collaboration*. The friction here isn't necessarily about content mastery (though that helps) but about...

- intellectual curiosity
- risk-taking
- the ability to imagine novel applications for AI
- fostering experimentation and the development of entirely new workflows or solutions, with the potential to lead to unexpected insights

How to know that you are ready:

- ☐ You have demonstrated a strong sense of curiosity and are comfortable with ambiguity and experimentation.
- ☐ You have practiced elements of human-centered design, such as empathy, problem identification, ideation, prototyping, etc with other people, with or without AI.
- ☐ You have demonstrated a willingness to explore unconventional approaches and learn from failures.
- ☐ You have demonstrated the ability to articulate creative hypotheses and iterate on ideas with and without AI.

What to watch out for:

- Getting lost in endless experimentation without a clear objective.
- Struggling to define a problem or a creative direction.
- A lack of critical reflection on the novelty and/or utility of AI-generated solutions.

What to aim for:

- To actively embrace the "variable friction" of this level, learning to troubleshoot, adapt, and modify your approach when initial ideas and AI outputs take you in a new or unexpected direction.
- To document not just your final solution, but also your process of discovery, reflecting critically on your failures, successes, and the unique insights gained from the use of AI-generated content.
- The intellectual thrill of developing a new workflow or solution that could have a positive impact, leading to a sense of purpose and contribution.



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