

Is Your Assignment AI-Proof?

Run any existing assignment through this one-page audit in about five minutes.

The premise: If a student can paste your assignment into an AI tool and get a passing grade in two minutes, that's not a cheating problem. It's a signal that the assignment tests recall and format, which is exactly what AI does well. The fix is design, not surveillance.

STEP 1: AUDIT THE ASSIGNMENT

☐ **Can AI complete this with no input specific to this student?**

Paste your actual prompt into an AI tool and see. If it produces a passing response on its own, flag it.

☐ **Does this require personal perspective or lived context?**

Is there anything only this specific student, in this community, could write?

☐ **Could a student explain this work out loud in 60 seconds?**

If they used AI without engaging, they can't. If they used it as a tool, they can.

The verdict: If the answer to the first question is YES and the other two are NO, this assignment is a candidate for a quick redesign. Use one of the three strategies below.

STEP 2: REDESIGN WITH ONE OF THESE

1. Add a Personal Stake

Require a connection to the student's own life, community, or perspective. AI can't access it.

Before: "Explain the causes of the Great Migration." **After:** "...then identify one parallel to something happening in your city or family history today."

2. Require a Process Artifact

Make the thinking visible. A **process artifact** is anything that shows how a student got to their answer: notes, a rough draft, or a short decision log.

Add this prompt: "Write three sentences about choices you made while working on this. What did you include, change, or leave out, and why?"

3. Demand a Live Explanation

Build in a short verbal or recorded moment where students explain one part of their work, unscripted.

Keep it light: 60 seconds, phone-recorded or during class. If it's theirs, they can explain it.