

TASK AUTOPSY

Diagnosing Where AI Hides in Your Assignments

Participant Workbook

Facilitated by Ken Thompson, M.Ed.

Part of the Proof of Work Framework

WELCOME

Today you will learn to diagnose where AI can hide in your assignments. By the end, you will have:

- A completed Task Autopsy of one assignment
- Clear identification of where thinking happens vs. compliance
- Insight into where AI could bypass learning

THE KEY QUESTION

How do I know if my students are thinking or if AI is doing the work?

TASK AUTOPSY WORKSHEET

Assignment Title:

Instructions: Map your assignment using the two columns below. Be specific.

THINKING REQUIRED	COMPLIANCE FEATURES
Where does cognition happen?	What are formatting requirements?
<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forming claims• Selecting evidence• Interpreting meaning	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five-paragraph structure• Word count• MLA formatting

The Hardest Part: What is the hardest part of this assignment for students? Where could AI bypass the thinking?

COGNITIVE VERBS REFERENCE

Use these when mapping the thinking column. Name the actual mental move.

Creating & Generating	Designing, Constructing, Planning, Producing, Inventing, Devising, Composing
Evaluating & Judging	Assessing, Critiquing, Defending, Justifying, Weighing, Recommending
Analyzing & Examining	Comparing, Contrasting, Differentiating, Organizing, Categorizing, Integrating
Applying & Using	Implementing, Executing, Solving, Demonstrating, Interpreting, Illustrating
Understanding & Explaining	Interpreting, Summarizing, Inferring, Paraphrasing, Classifying, Explaining

WORKED EXAMPLE

Assignment: 750-word essay on justice in *To Kill a Mockingbird*

THINKING	COMPLIANCE
Forming defensible claim	Five-paragraph structure
Selecting evidence that supports reasoning	MLA formatting
Interpreting how evidence connects to claim	Word count (750 words)
Anticipating counterarguments	Grammar and spelling
Synthesizing across scenes	Minimum 3 quotes
Evaluating support for claims	Citations

The Hardest Part:

Forming non-obvious claims. Students often default to surface observations instead of nuanced interpretation.

AVOID VAGUE LANGUAGE

Name the actual mental move, not a vague outcome.

TOO VAGUE	SPECIFIC
Critical thinking	Evaluating credibility
Deep understanding	Comparing perspectives
Analysis	Interpreting meaning
Synthesis	Integrating sources
Comprehension	Identifying cause and effect
Effort	Revising claims
Creativity	Generating alternatives

REFLECTION & NOTES

What surprised you?

Where does thinking live?

Biggest takeaway:

NEXT STEPS

This is **Module 1** of 5 in the **Proof of Work Framework**.

Module 1	Task Autopsy — Diagnose where AI hides
Module 2	Task Redesign — Make thinking visible
Module 3	Student Literacy — Build transparency
Module 4	Assessment — Evaluate AI-adjacent work
Module 5	Implementation — Sustain changes

Ken Thompson, M.Ed.

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APPENDIX: SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS

Use one of these if you did not bring your own assignment to analyze.

1. Literary Analysis	Write a 750-word essay on justice in <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> with thesis, 3 quotes, MLA format.
2. DBQ Essay	Analyze American Revolution documents, 4 to 5 pages, Chicago citations, outside knowledge.
3. Quadratic Functions	Real-world quadratic project with equation, graph, and vertex explanation.
4. Enzyme Lab Report	Formal lab report with hypothesis, methods, results, discussion, 3 pages, APA.
5. Spanish Narrative	300-word vacation narrative using past tenses, 10 verbs, travel vocabulary.
6. Book Report	100-page book report with summary, character analysis, recommendation, illustration.
7. Natural Disaster	Research presentation on disaster causes, locations, case study, 3 to 5 minutes.
8. Policy Analysis	5-page essay analyzing economic policy with multiple perspectives, APA, 5 sources.