

Thinking Clearly in the Age of AI

A student reference for working with large language models

AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini are powerful, but they are not search engines and they are not always right. Understanding **how they work** is the first step to using them well, and to protecting your own judgment.

HOW A LARGE LANGUAGE MODEL ACTUALLY WORKS

1 It predicts, it does not look up.

A language model generates text by predicting the next most likely word, based on patterns in the data it was trained on. It is not retrieving a verified fact from a database.

2 It has no built-in sense of truth.

The model produces fluent, confident text whether the underlying claim is correct or not. Confidence is not evidence.

3 It can invent things.

When a model fills a gap with plausible but false information, including fake sources or quotes, this is called a hallucination. It happens often enough to matter.

BEFORE YOU TRUST AN AI ANSWER, ASK

- ☐ **Can I verify this somewhere else?** Check the claim against a reliable, independent source before acting on it.
- ☐ **Did it give real sources?** If it cites a study, article, or quote, confirm that source actually exists and says what the model claims.
- ☐ **Does this match what I already know?** If an answer contradicts established knowledge, treat that as a signal to investigate, not to accept.
- ☐ **Am I using it to think, or to skip thinking?** Use AI to test ideas and explore, not to replace your own reasoning.

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WHAT YOU RECEIVE



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Your own Reachy Mini robot to learn on, build with, and keep working through the program.



Mentorship

Structured guidance from engineers, educators, and professionals in the field.



Cohort Community

A group of fellow students learning, problem-solving, and growing together.

WHO CAN APPLY

- ▶ Current high school students in **grades 9 through 11**.
- ▶ Curiosity and motivation matter more than prior experience. No robotics background required.
- ▶ If you are a rising 9th or 10th grader, you have multiple years of eligibility ahead of you.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY

accesstorobotics.org

Visit the site for full program details and the application form.