



5 ideas for those
curious about AI

Prof. Ed Stoddard
June 2026

Running order

1. Don't believe the hype, don't ignore the hype
2. Skate to where the puck is
3. A picture is worth a thousand words: AI images
4. If you need a thousand words (or more than 2 sentences), speak them.
5. Maybe run an EARLE (or AERLE or RAELE)?
6. Next steps: Start with timesavers and compound your learning



Don't believe the hype, don't ignore the hype...

- AI Slop, AI hucksters, AI will kill us all, AI will take your job = Exhausting!



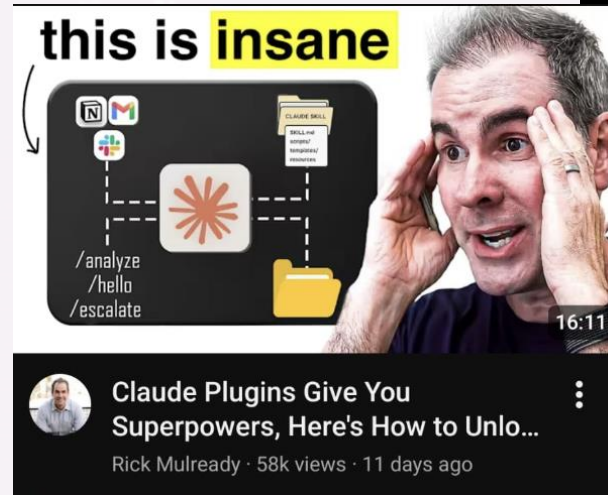
Something Big Is Happening



Matt Shumer ✓
GP at Shumer Capital, CEO and Co-Founder of OthersideAI



February 11, 2026



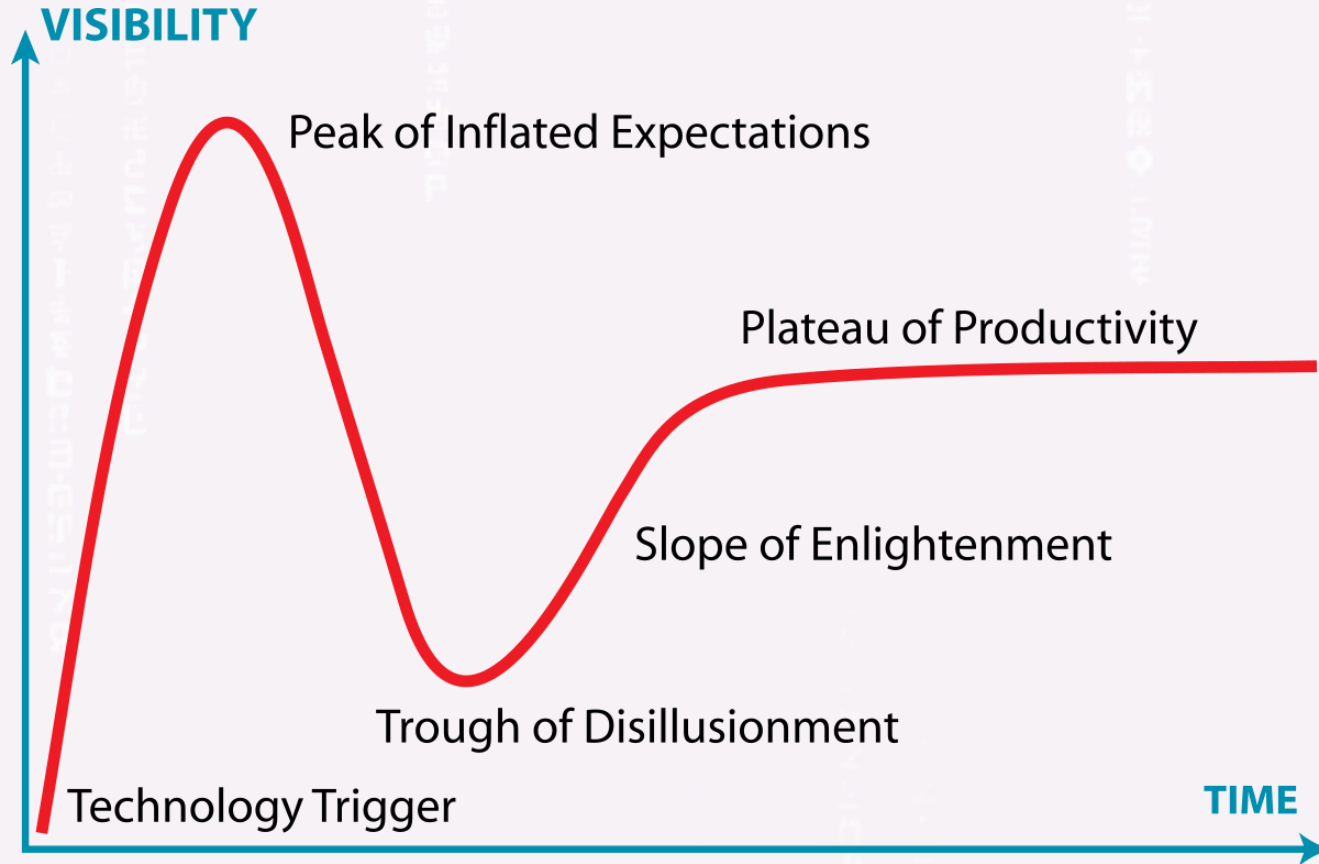
Claude Plugins Give You Superpowers, Here's How to Unlo...

Rick Mulready · 58k views · 11 days ago

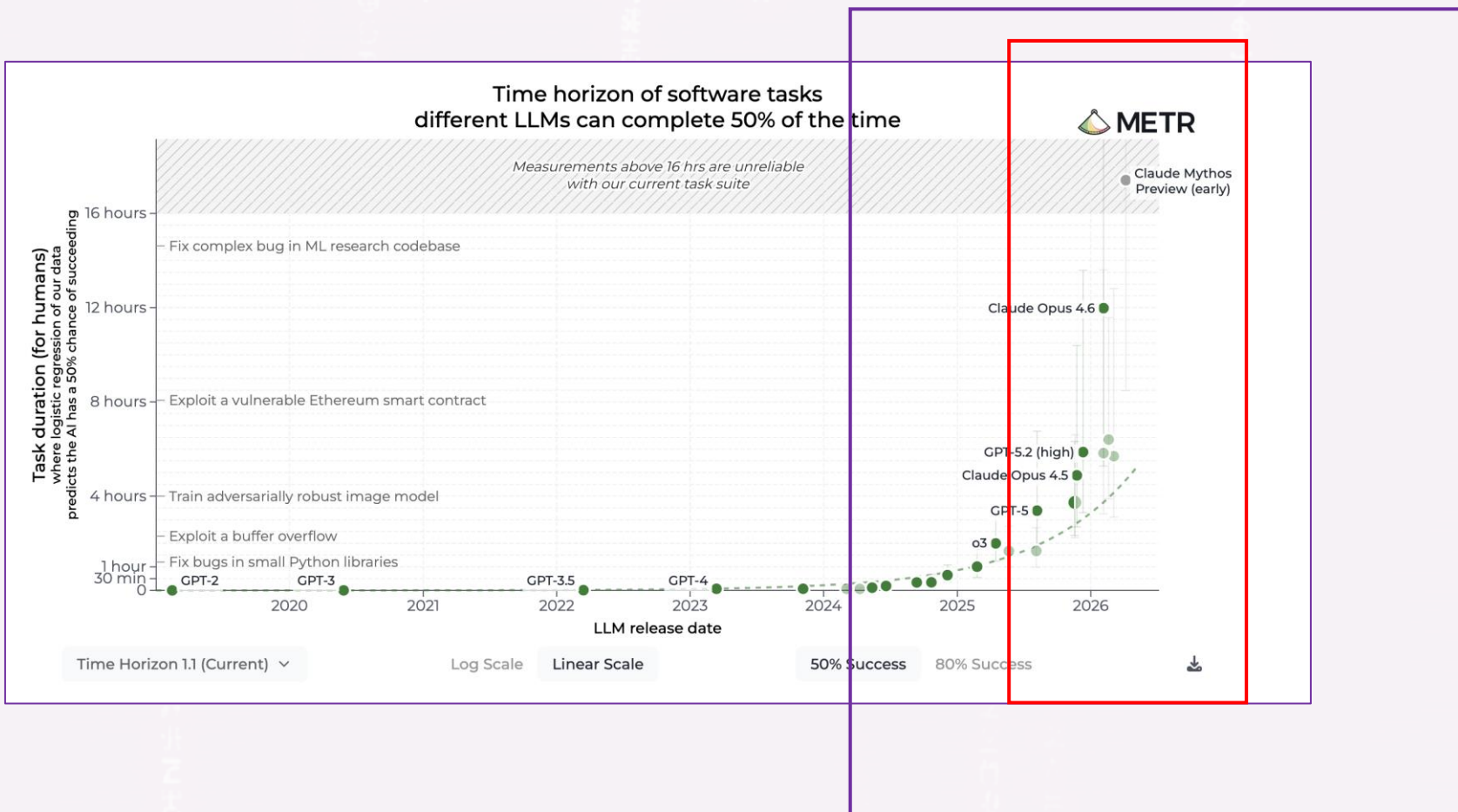


Don't believe the hype, don't ignore the hype...

HYPE CYCLE

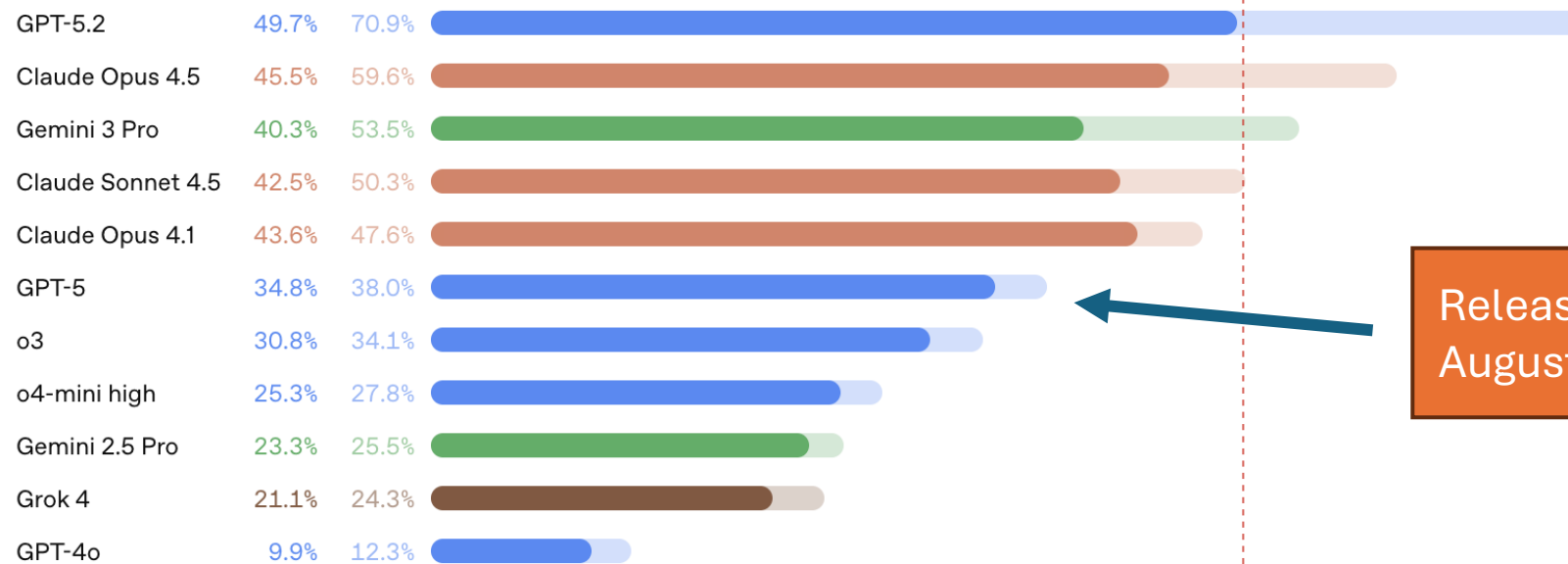


Don't believe the hype, don't ignore the hype...



Don't believe the hype, don't ignore the hype...

■ Wins Only ■ Wins + Ties ■ Parity with Industry Expert (50%)



GPT5.5
(released April 26)
84% wins and ties

Released 7th
August 2025

Skate to Where the Puck is...

- Where AI is now **versus** rate of change
- Think about where things are going (or follow people who do)

Recommended follows:

- Ethan Mollick (Substack/email)
- AI Daily Brief Podcast
- Every
- This is true with:
 - Learning
 - Testing
 - Building



A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

1. Images for your slides.
2. Top tip – describe what you want and ask the AI for a JSON prompt

I need an image of an ice hockey game, in progress the players are moving fast so are slightly blurred the scene is hyper realistic and gritty like a real provincial ice rink. on the boards a the back clearly visible is the same 5 Ideas for those curious about AI graphic from above as an advert. the boards should look a bit beaten up from all the skating. the puck should be visible in the image. Dont make this yet do a JSON description prompt.



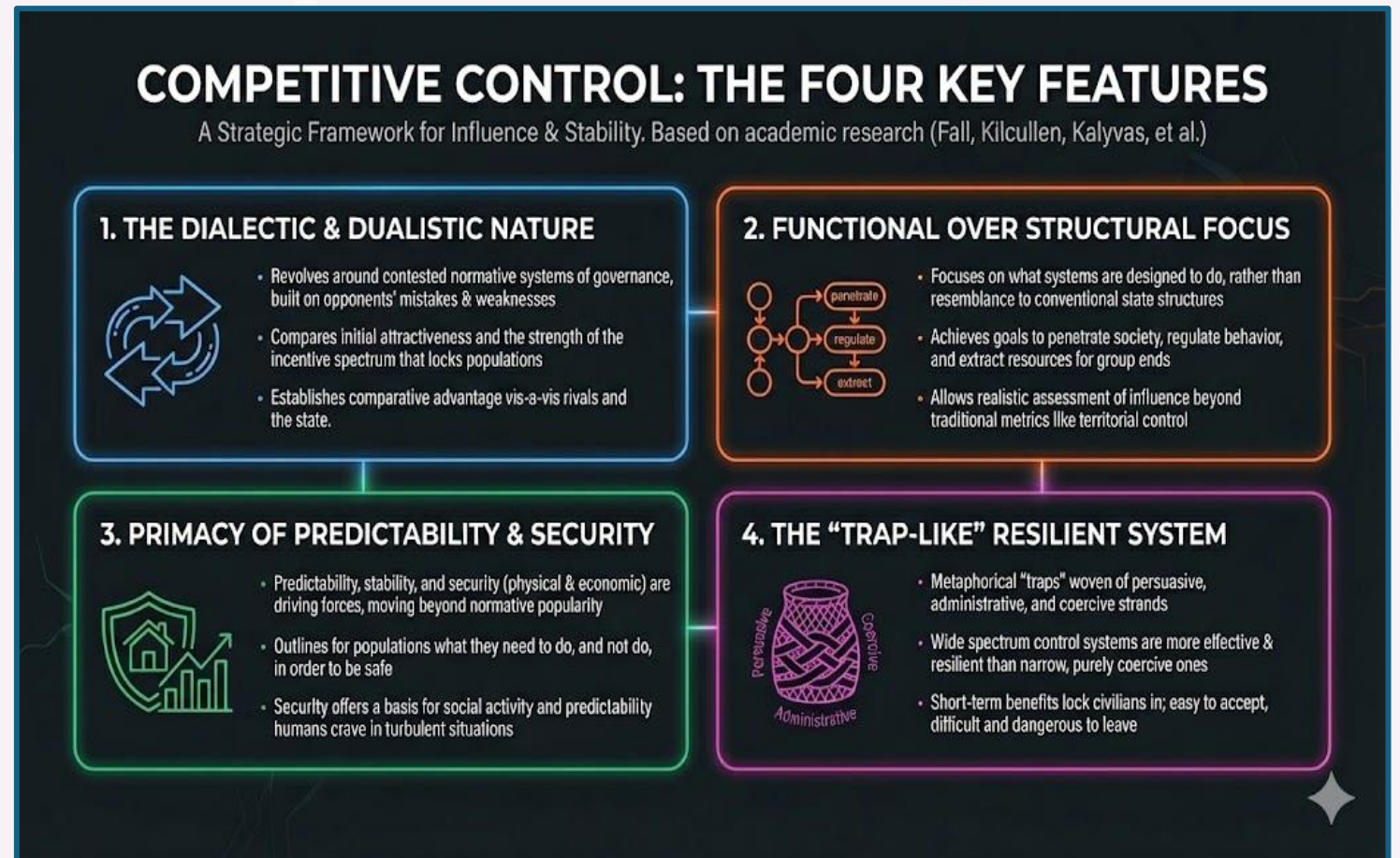
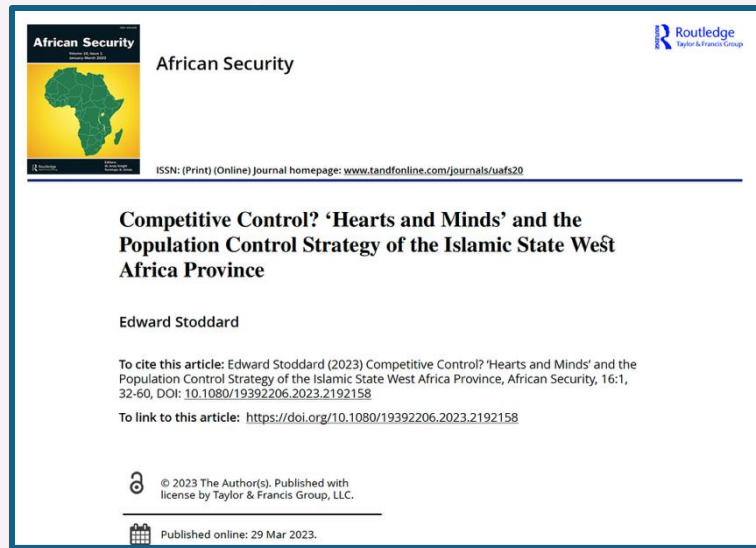
JSON

```
{
  "description": "A cinematic, low-angle action shot taken from ice level on a hockey rink",
  "subjects": [
    "hockey players",
    "hockey puck",
    "ice rink"
  ],
  "text_content": {
    "primary_message": "5 ideas for those curious about AI",
    "primary_style": "Glowing neon script text in orange and purple, digitally superimposed",
    "background_ads": [
      "YUKON TIRES",
      "ELK VALLEY LOGGING",
      "BANFF SPRINGS BREWING CO."
    ]
  },
  "style": {
    "lighting": "Dramatic, cool-toned arena lighting",
    "perspective": "Low angle / worm's-eye view",
    "mood": "Dynamic, fast-paced, competitive"
  }
}
```



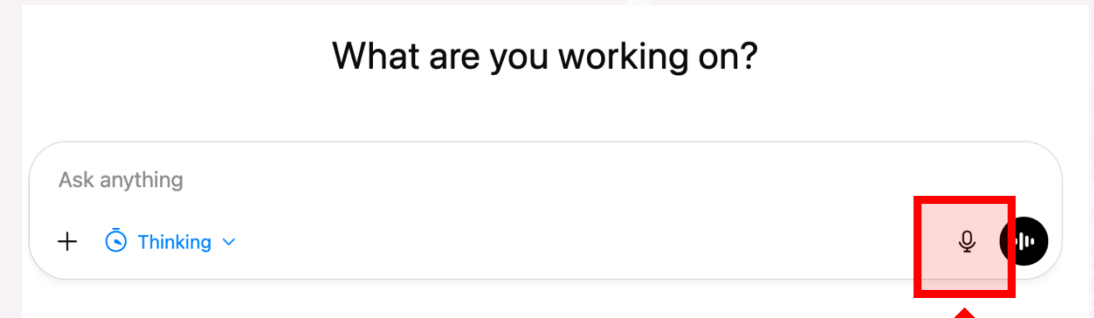
A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

- Infographics for slides or research



If You Need A Thousand Words (Or More Than 2 Sentences), Speak Them.

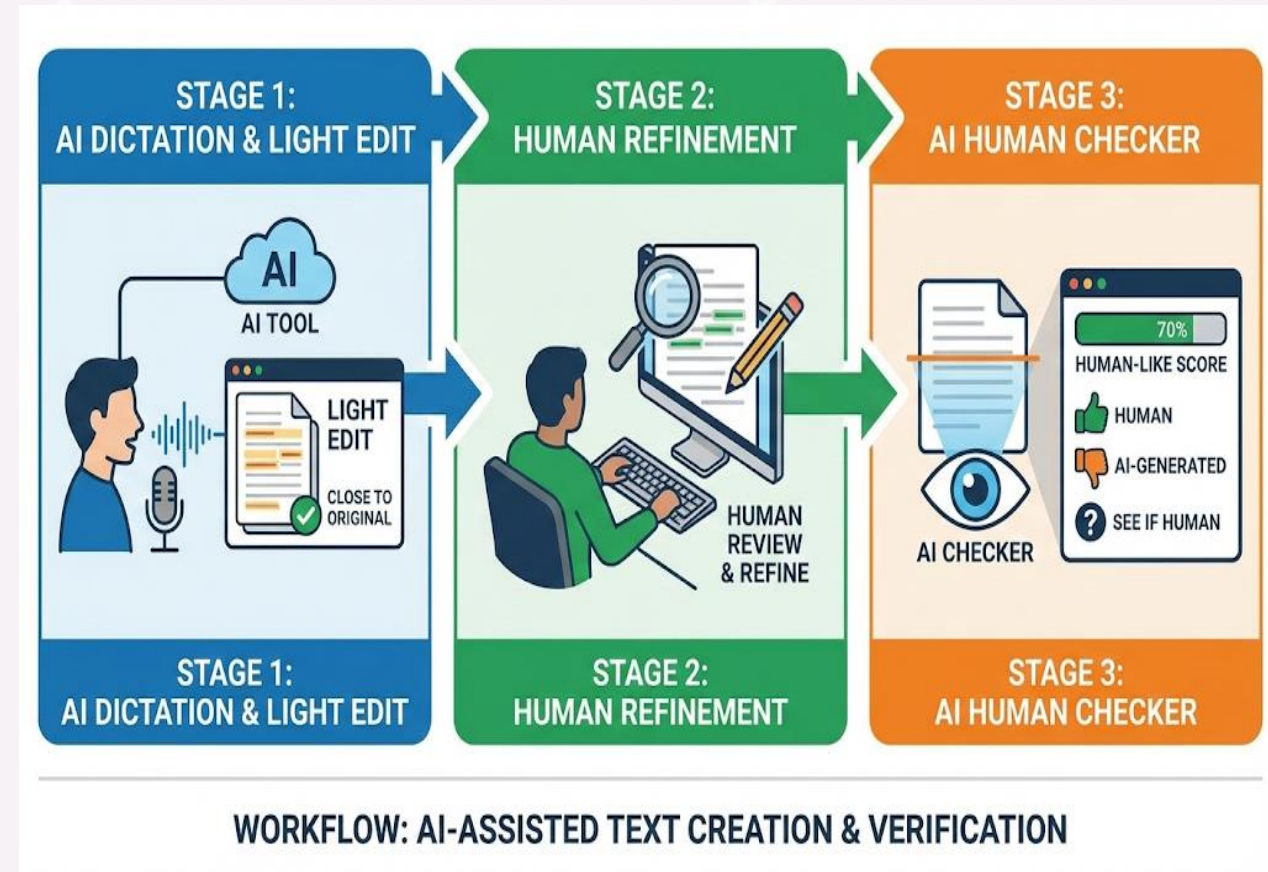
- Typing is old school - speaking is the new cool.
- AI generated text often doesn't feel quite right + ethical questions
- Voice to Text/Dictation – ChatGPT (inc. on free version), Gemini not as good. Lots of other providers. Built into some Apple laptops (not as good).
- Whisper note/Superwhisper/Whisperflow
- Best way of preserving your voice in age of AI?



This is your friend

If You Need A Thousand Words (Or More Than 2 Sentences), Speak Them.

- Typing is old school - speaking is the new cool guys.
- You want to be a weirdo like me whispering into their laptop
- AI generated text often doesn't feel quite right + ethical questions
- Voice to Text/Dictation – ChatGPT (inc. on free version), Gemini not as good. Lots of other providers. Built into some Apple laptops (not as good).
- Whisper note/Superwhisper/Whisperflow
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Run an EARLE (or AERLE or RAELE)

- Enhanced AI Rapid Learning Exercise
- Started 2 years ago on a hunch
- Paradox – Anthropic Experiment
- Benefit: structured space for students to play with AI while learning / Easy prep once done / Improves digital collaboration skills

A Staged Approach (an idea)

1

Break Down the Task

Work offline first. Map out what you need to know about JNIM and the Sahel. Then sense-check your plan with AI.

2

Learn with AI

Use AI in learning mode to build knowledge [on](#); JNIM's origins, structure and leadership; the wider Sahel conflict; and effective policy briefing writing. Interrogate, question, and explain back.

3

Test Yourself

Ask AI to generate MCQs on each topic. If you can't pass them, go back and learn more.

4

Form Your Argument

Decide on your key recommendation. Use AI to help structure your thinking with tables or visual frameworks.

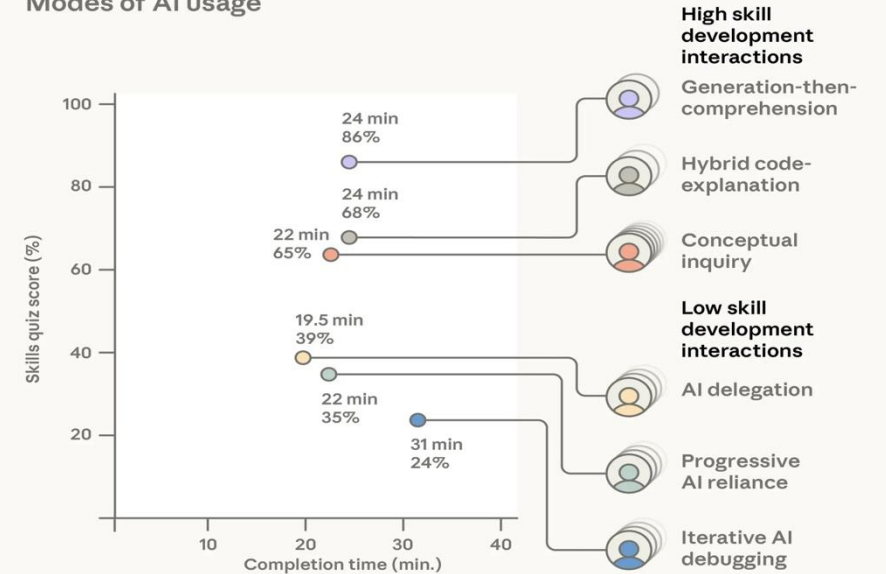
5

Produce & Edit

Write a product specification describing what you need. Generate the briefing with AI. Then edit critically — this is your document, not AI's.

Remember: These stages are a guide, not a rigid formula. Adapt them to suit your working style — but resist the temptation to skip straight to Stage 5.

Modes of AI usage



Next steps:

- Main benefits of AI
 - Timesaving (but be careful)
 - Mental health (but be careful)
 - Better quality
 - Doing things you couldn't do before

Your learning:

1. Start small and focus on timesavers
2. Use that time to learn more about AI
3. More time for higher value tasks, quicker work, reduce mental burden
4. Do things you couldn't before - compound your time

Or don't - use the time to do the core parts of your job. Read more, speak to more students, spend more time on research, build new materials, or just finish at a normal time.

