



The draft

The machine produces a first version, fast.



Your verdict

You judge it against a standard you could write down.



Ship or reject

Only what passes carries your name.

CHECKLIST · NO. 07

The Output Verdict

Direct, don't do — and own what comes back. A checklist for judging AI work before you put your name on it.

TIME	PAGES	USE
15 minutes	7	Per output

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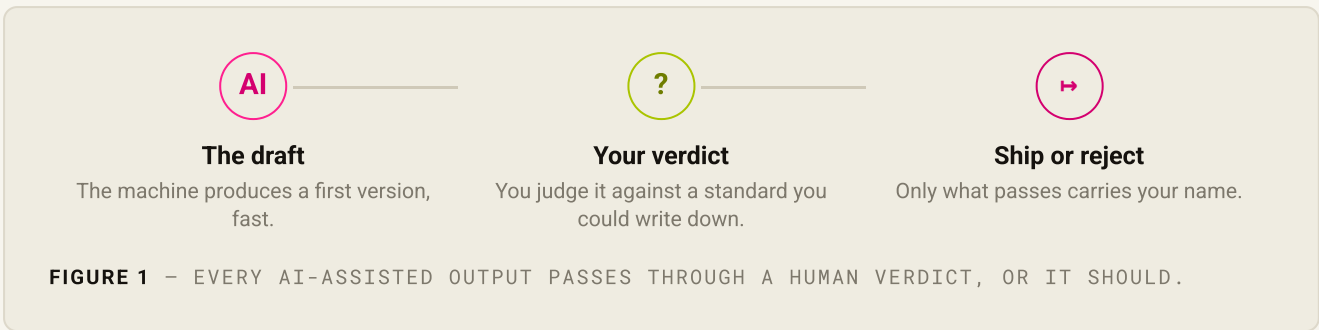
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THE PRINCIPLE

The machine drafts. You decide.

A model produces confident output whether or not it is correct. Confidence is not a verdict — it is a tone. The verdict is the human judgment that says “this is right, useful, and honest, and I will stand behind it.”



Accountability cannot be delegated to a tool. When the work goes out, a person answers for it — so a person has to judge it first. The verdict is the cheapest insurance you will ever buy: a few minutes of judgment against hours of cleaning up output you trusted on faith.

THE ONE LINE
 You can delegate the drafting. You cannot delegate the deciding. The verdict is the job.

THE TESTS

Five questions, every time.

A verdict is not a vibe. It is five questions you can answer fast — and if any one fails, the output goes back.

01 Is it true?

Check the facts, the numbers, the claims. Models invent confidently. Verify anything you would be embarrassed to be wrong about.

02 Is it sourced?

Can you trace the key claims to something real? A plausible citation is not a real one. Open it.

03 Is it on brief?

Does it actually answer the intent you set — or something adjacent that the model found easier?

04 Is it yours to own?

Would you say it in your own voice, to this audience, and stand behind it tomorrow?

05 Would you ship it?

The final gate. If you are only shipping it because it was fast to produce, that is not a yes.

WORKED EXAMPLE

The checklist, applied.

A MARKET SUMMARY

VERDICT: SENT BACK

Is it true? Two of the five figures could not be traced to the source data. **Fail.**

Is it sourced? The “industry report” it cited does not exist. **Fail.**

Is it on brief? Yes — it answered the question asked.

Is it yours to own? Not yet — not with unverified numbers in it.

Verdict. Back to the machine with the real data attached and a tighter brief. Two minutes of judgment saved a wrong number in a board deck.

SPEED IS THE TRAP

The faster the draft arrives, the stronger the pull to ship it unread. Fast output deserves the verdict *most*, not least.

RUN IT

Your verdict, on your output.

Take one real AI-assisted output. Tick only what is genuinely true.

Is it true?
Facts, numbers, and claims verified — not assumed.

Is it sourced?
Key claims traced to something real you opened.

Is it on brief?
It answers the intent you set, not an easier adjacent question.

Is it yours to own?
You would say it in your own voice, to this audience.

Would you ship it?
Yes for its quality — not just because it was fast.

IF IT FAILED, THE ONE THING TO FIX IN THE BRIEF

TROUBLESHOOTING

How verdicts go soft.

- **The speed pass.** It came back in seconds, so you skimmed it. Skimming is not judging.
- **The plausibility trap.** It *sounds* right, so you assume it is. Fluent and correct are different things.
- **The borrowed source.** You accepted a citation without opening it. Half of them will not say what the model claims.
- **No standard.** You never decided what “good” was, so anything passed. Write the standard first.

NEXT IN THE LIBRARY

Set the standard up front with **The Direction Brief** — a good brief makes a fast verdict possible. Free at blankcollar.university/resources.