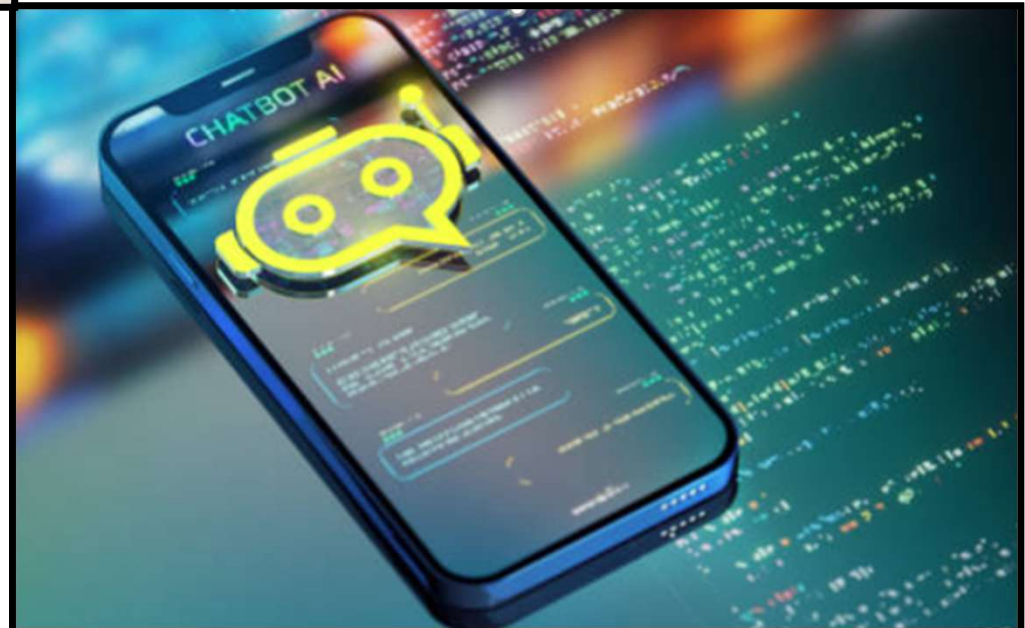Praxis 3

Persuasion Impossible

The Challenge

Choose a persuasive task that feels unusually difficult or impossible.

Then work with AI to achieve the task.

Part One: Initial Proposal (200-400 words)
Due Tuesday 11/26

- Identify your task and explain how it will stretch or exceed your persuasive abilities.

- Describe how you and AI will work together to achieve the task:
  - What unique strengths do you bring to the challenge?
  - What unique strengths does (or might) AI bring to the challenge?
  - What do you imagine you and AI will achieve in collaboration that you could not do alone?

- How will you know you succeeded? List 3-5 specific quantitative and/or quantitative benchmarks.

Part Two: Document Your Process

- Log at least five of your interactions with AI using the provided "Activity Log" template
- Entries should include
  - The date of the interaction
  - The AI tool used
  - The purpose and goal of the interaction, e.g. "Soundboard initial ideas" or "Get feedback from a skeptical investor"
  - Highlights from the interaction (best prompts and outputs)
  - Key lessons and takeaways

Part Three: Presentation Showcase
Due Tuesday 12/3 in class

- Prepare a 6-min presentation for the class
  - **Context (1 min):** Tell us whom you're trying to persuade, what you're persuading them about, and why it seemed impossible
  - **Persuasion (3 mins):** Present your work, with the aim either of persuading the class *OR* demonstrating how you persuaded your intended audience
  - **Working with AI (1-2 mins):** Demonstrate your AI collaboration process, including key breakthroughs and takeaways
  - *Note: All presentation formats are acceptable: speech, video, slides, conversation role-play, poster, podcast, etc. Be creative!*
  - *Please send any digital materials to Prof. Allison by 12:00 PM on Tues 12/3*

- Judging criteria
  - **Impossibility:** How convincingly hard was the task for a human alone?
  - **AI Collaboration:** How creatively and innovatively did you use AI?
  - Top scorers win a prize!

Part Four: Rubric Design

- Imagine you're developing a rubric to assess future student-AI collaborations in COMM 4644. What would be important to measure and how would you measure it?

- Use the following questions to guide your rubric design. Include your answers in the project document.

    1. What did the AI contribute to the process? In what ways, if any, did it enhance or accelerate your work?

    2. What did you contribute to the process? What aspects of your labor do you want spotlighted?

    3. What do you think are the hallmarks of a top-notch human-AI collaboration as opposed to a mediocre one?

    4. In an era of AI-augmented work, how do you measure the value added by humans?

- Drawing from your responses to these questions and the record of your interactions with AI, identify and describe 5-7 evaluation criteria and add them to the provided rubric template.

Submit your complete assignment package, including Parts 1, 2, and 4, by Friday 12/6 by 11:59 PM

Project assessment

The project will be graded on 4 criteria:

Task Ambition
Centers a genuinely difficult challenge, shows clear vision of enhanced outcomes, and deploys AI strategically to help you go further than ever before as a persuader.

AI Collaboration
Demonstrates sophisticated use of AI, clearly documenting your learning, key takeaways, and breakthrough moments.

Persuasive Impact
Polished and professional in-class presentation within time limits. Convincingly demonstrates "impossible" achievement and innovative use of AI.

Meta-Analysis
Clear insights into human-AI dynamics in persuasion, combined with deep awareness of persuasion as a discipline. Rubric contains specific, measurable criteria for evaluating your human contribution to the project.

= 10% of your course grade