

The Jonesi Consultancy | Houston, TX

EXECUTIVE AI ADOPTION · HANDOUT AND WORKSHEET

AI HALLUCINATIONS



AI Can Be Confidently Wrong. Here Is How to Catch It.

A hallucination is not a lie. It is the model filling a gap with something that fits the pattern.

TEN COMMON WARNING SIGNS

1 Slow Down When You See These

A hallucination is not a lie. It is the model filling a gap with something that fits the pattern. The output reads well, which is exactly what makes it dangerous. Learn the tells.

1 TOO SPECIFIC

Precise numbers, dates, or quotes that you do not recognize and cannot place.

2 NO SOURCE

A firm factual claim with no citation, link, or evidence behind it.

3 VAGUE REFERENCES

Mentions studies, experts, or reports you cannot find anywhere.

4 CONTRADICTS WHAT YOU KNOW

Conflicts with information you already hold and trust.

5 UNBALANCED TONE

Total confidence on a question that genuinely has nuance.

6 BROKEN LINKS

URLs that fail, redirect oddly, or land on unrelated content.

7 OUTDATED INFORMATION

Reflects a world that has since moved on.

8 MISSING CONTEXT

Critical assumptions left unstated, producing a misleading answer.

9 SUSPICIOUSLY POLISHED

Reads too cleanly for a topic that is genuinely messy.

10 FABRICATED CITATIONS

Invented journal names, authors, case numbers, or page references.

2 5 Habits That Catch Almost Everything

CHECK THE SOURCE

Look it up independently. Use official documents, primary sources, or a site you already trust. If the source does not exist, nothing built on it survives.

CROSS CHECK THE DETAILS

Verify names, numbers, and dates against at least one other reliable source. Numbers are where hallucinations do the most damage.

ASK THE MODEL TO VERIFY

Ask it to double check its own answer and produce sources. Then verify those sources yourself. The second step is not optional.

CONFIRM THE DATE

Ask when the information was current. Anything time sensitive needs a live check before it leaves your hands.

USE YOUR OWN JUDGMENT

You know your context better than the model does. If something does not sound right, it usually is not. Pause and verify.

QUICK RED FLAGS

- › No sources or vague references
- › Too good to be true
- › Complex answers delivered with no caveats
- › Overly detailed but unverifiable
- › Emotional or manipulative tone
- › Absolute certainty with no room for doubt

VERIFICATION TOOLKIT

- › General and advanced web search
- › Academic and scholarly databases
- › Reputable news outlets
- › Established fact checking services
- › Official sources: government, education, standards bodies
- › Subject matter experts inside your organization

AI DOES NOT KNOW. IT PREDICTS.

The model is a powerful assistant, not an authority. Your judgment, your verification, and your accountability are what make the output trustworthy. Trust, but verify. Especially when it sounds perfect.

REVIEWER WORKSHEET

3 Verify Before You Rely

Work each error type, apply the verification strategy, and record the result.

TASK / TOPIC	DATE	REVIEWER
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CHECK FOR	VERIFYING QUESTIONS	VERIFICATION STRATEGY	WARNING SIGNS	RESULT
FABRICATED FACTS	Can I find this on more than one reliable source? Do the names, dates, and numbers seem verifiable?	Search the claim directly. Check two or three reputable sources. Cross check with someone who knows the domain.	Very specific details with no source. Unattributed statistics. "According to a study" with no study named.	Pass Flag Fail
FAKE CITATIONS	Do the citations look real? Can I locate the title, author, and date? Does the link resolve?	Click every link. Search the title and author. Look for the source on the publisher's own site.	Vague journal names. Links that fail. Author names that do not match. Unusual URLs.	Pass Flag Fail
INCORRECT CALCULATIONS	Does the math add up? Can I reproduce the calculation? Are units and conversions correct?	Recalculate manually. Use a calculator or spreadsheet. Check the formulas and the units independently.	Answers with no working shown. Rounding that changes the conclusion. Wrong units.	Pass Flag Fail
FAULTY REASONING	Does the conclusion follow from the evidence? Are there unsupported assumptions?	Map the argument step by step. Check for logical fallacies. Ask what is being assumed. Get a second opinion.	Large leaps with no bridge. "Obviously" or "clearly" doing the work. Cherry picked evidence.	Pass Flag Fail
UNSUPPORTED CLAIMS	What evidence supports this? Is the source credible and relevant? Is this opinion or fact?	Look for primary sources. Check expert consensus. Verify underlying data or studies.	Sweeping generalizations. "Experts say" with no names. Overly confident language.	Pass Flag Fail
OUTDATED INFORMATION	When was this last updated? Could it be superseded? Have there been recent changes?	Check publication dates. Search for recent updates. Visit official sources for the current position.	No date provided. Old statistics. Past events described as current.	Pass Flag Fail
LOGICAL INCONSISTENCIES	Does it contradict itself? Does it conflict with what I already know? Are terms used consistently?	Read the output twice. Check earlier sections against later ones. Compare with trusted sources.	Contradictory statements. Shifting definitions. Both sides argued with no resolution.	Pass Flag Fail

4 Reviewer Notes *What You Flagged And What You Did About It*

PAUSE. VERIFY. CROSS CHECK. THEN DECIDE.

AI is a powerful assistant, not a perfect authority. Your judgment is the final safeguard, and it is the part that cannot be delegated.

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We help organizations set the lines, train to them, and put governance behind them.

