

## AI Literacy Curriculum

🌟 15-WEEK HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

GRADES 9–12

This 15-week curriculum empowers high school students to think critically about artificial intelligence — not just how it works, but **who it works for**. Each week pairs a core AI concept with an ethical lens rooted in students' real lives: social media, deepfakes, academic integrity, and creative ownership. The course culminates in a hands-on capstone where students audit and prototype their own AI solutions.

Week	Themes	Topics Covered	Topics for Navigating Self
1	<b>AI, the System</b>	AI vs. traditional programming; input-process-output; Narrow vs. General AI	Maintaining your voice in the age of AI
2	<b>AI History &amp; Power</b>	Key milestones; who built AI and why; corporate vs. public interest; environmental cost	Who benefits and who pays?
3	<b>Rules vs. Learning Machines</b>	Algorithms vs. ML; prediction vs. understanding; feedback loops; LLM settings	Over-trusting systems
4	<b>Decision-Making &amp; AI</b>	Neural network architecture; how LLMs predict the "next token"; hallucinations	Cognitive offloading
5	<b>The Bias in the Machine</b>	Algorithmic bias; feedback loops; representative vs. historical bias	Fairness vs. accuracy tradeoffs
6	<b>The Algorithm of You</b>	Recommendation engines (TikTok/YouTube); attention economy; echo chambers	Autonomy & manipulation
7	<b>Deepfakes &amp; Synthetic Media</b>	Image/video manipulation; voice cloning; detection tools vs. generation speed	Navigating a "post-truth" world
8	<b>AI &amp; Human Connection</b>	Conversational agents; companion bots; the "ELIZA effect"	The loneliness loop
9	<b>Midterm: The Human Audit</b>	Evaluating an existing AI system for bias, transparency & social impact	Academic integrity
10	<b>The Invisible Infrastructure</b>	Environmental cost of data centers; labor ethics of human "data labelers"	Global citizenship
11	<b>Governance &amp; Law</b>	AI Bill of Rights; GDPR; corporate vs. government regulation	Power & policy
12	<b>Creativity, Ownership &amp; Credit</b>	AI art, music, writing; training data ethics; plagiarism debates	Intellectual honesty
13	<b>Capstone Onboarding</b>	Capstone project plan development	Self & social responsibility
14	<b>Capstone Build</b>	No-code prototype construction	Self & social responsibility
15	<b>Capstone Showcase</b>	Presentation & peer feedback	Reflective practice

📌 **For educators:** Each week's ethics lens is designed to spark discussion, not deliver answers. Encourage students to bring their own experiences with AI into the conversation.