

# Project 3: AI and Your Future Career

Due: May 1, 2026 at 11:59 PM

## 1 Overview and Learning Goals

In this project, you will choose a future career that you are seriously considering (or are actually entering) and analyze how artificial intelligence may change that career. Your goal is not just to say that AI will have an effect. Your goal is to think carefully about where AI may disrupt the work, where AI may make the work more powerful or efficient, and how someone entering that career could use AI to gain an advantage.

You will produce two Markdown files and publish the essay on your existing course website:

- A written report that can be converted with Pandoc into a nicely formatted Word document.
- A short presentation that can be converted with Pandoc into a PowerPoint slide deck.
- A webpage on the website you built in the earlier projects, with styling that matches the rest of your site.

### Learning goals

By completing this project, you will practice:

- Analyzing how AI tools may change a real career path.
- Distinguishing between disruption, benefit, and strategic opportunity.
- Using AI tools thoughtfully to research, draft, revise, and improve professional documents.
- Creating Markdown documents that can be converted into polished Word and PowerPoint files using Pandoc.
- Publishing professional writing on a personal website with consistent styling and navigation.

## 2 What You Will Build

You will create a small professional portfolio package about AI and your chosen future career. The package will include:

- `career-report.md`: a Markdown report about your chosen career.
- `career-slides.md`: a Markdown slide deck summarizing the most important ideas from the report.
- `report-style.docx`: a Pandoc reference document used to style the generated Word report.
- `slide-style.pptx`: a Pandoc reference document used to style the generated PowerPoint presentation.
- `career-report.docx`: the Word document generated from your report Markdown file.
- `career-slides.pptx`: the PowerPoint presentation generated from your slide Markdown file.

- A new page on your existing course website that presents the essay content from your report.

The Markdown files are the main source files for the assignment. The Word and PowerPoint files should show that your Markdown can be successfully converted into polished, readable final documents. The website page should show that you can adapt the same ideas for a public-facing web format.

### 3 Requirements

#### 3.1 Career Choice

1. Choose a future career, profession, or job role that you are seriously considering.
2. Be specific. For example, “nurse practitioner,” “civil engineer,” “financial analyst,” “UX designer,” or “high school math teacher” is better than simply “healthcare,” “business,” or “education.”
3. Briefly explain why this career interests you and what kind of work people in that career do.

#### 3.2 Report Requirements

Your report should be written in Markdown and saved as `career-report.md`. It should be long enough to make a thoughtful argument, but it does not need to be a long research paper. A reasonable target is about 1,000–1,500 words.

Your report must include the following sections:

1. **Career overview:** Describe the career, the work people do in it, and the skills that matter.
2. **AI disruption:** Identify specific ways AI could automate, reduce, reorganize, or change parts of the career.
3. **AI benefits:** Identify specific ways AI could help people in this career do better work, save time, make better decisions, communicate more clearly, or serve people more effectively.
4. **Gaining an advantage:** Explain how someone preparing for this career could use AI to stand out. This section should include concrete strategies, not just general statements.
5. **Action plan:** Give at least three specific steps you could take over the next year to prepare for this AI-influenced version of the career.
6. **Sources and AI use:** Include any sources you used and briefly describe how you used AI tools while completing the assignment.

#### 3.3 Presentation Requirements

Create a second Markdown file named `career-slides.md`. This file should be designed to convert into a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation should summarize the most important points from your report and should be designed for an 8-minute presentation.

Your presentation should include:

1. A title slide with your name, career choice, course, and date.

2. A brief overview of the career.
3. At least one slide about AI disruption.
4. At least one slide about AI benefits.
5. At least one slide explaining how someone could use AI to gain an advantage in this career.
6. A final slide with your main takeaway or action plan.

A reasonable target is 8–10 slides. Your slides should use concise text, clear headings, and readable formatting. Do not simply paste full paragraphs from the report into the slides.

### 3.4 Website Publication Requirements

Post the essay from your report to the website you built in the previous projects. It should have its own page and should feel like part of the same website, not like a separate document pasted into an unrelated page.

Your website update must include:

1. A new webpage for the career essay.
2. Clear navigation from the rest of your website to the new essay page.
3. Styling that matches the rest of your website, including choices such as colors, typography, spacing, layout, and navigation.
4. The full essay content or a carefully adapted version of the essay that preserves the main argument from your report.
5. A working deployed version of the website.

## 4 Technical Requirements

1. Both source files must be written in Markdown.
2. Your Markdown should use meaningful headings, bullet lists, and other formatting where appropriate.
3. Your report Markdown file must convert successfully into a Word document using Pandoc and a Word reference document.
4. Your slide Markdown file must convert successfully into a PowerPoint presentation using Pandoc and a PowerPoint reference document.
5. You must use a Pandoc reference document for each generated file: one `.docx` reference file for the report and one `.pptx` reference file for the slide deck.
6. The generated Word document and PowerPoint presentation should be readable, organized, and professional.

7. Your website essay page must be deployed and accessible through your existing website navigation.

Example Pandoc commands:

```
pandoc career-report.md --reference-doc=report-style.docx -o career-report.docx
pandoc career-slides.md --reference-doc=slide-style.pptx -o career-slides.pptx
```

You are required to use Pandoc reference documents so that the generated Word document and PowerPoint presentation have intentional formatting. A reference document lets you start from an existing `.docx` or `.pptx` file whose fonts, headings, slide layouts, colors, and spacing are already styled, then ask Pandoc to use that file as the model for your generated output. Your reference files do not need to be complicated, but they should make visible styling choices that improve the readability and appearance of the final documents. You may ask AI tools to help you understand how Pandoc reference documents work or how to create simple reference files.

## 5 Submission Instructions

Submit the following six files:

1. `career-report.md`
2. `report-style.docx`
3. `career-report.docx`
4. `career-slides.md`
5. `slide-style.pptx`
6. `career-slides.pptx`

Also submit:

1. A link to your GitHub repository.
2. A link to the deployed webpage where your career essay appears.

Your Markdown and reference files should be complete enough that Dr. Kelley can regenerate the Word and PowerPoint files using Pandoc.

## 6 Grading Rubric (100 points)

1. **Career analysis and specificity (20 pts)**
  - Career choice is specific and clearly explained (8)
  - Report shows a realistic understanding of the work involved in the career (12)
2. **AI disruption and benefits (25 pts)**
  - Identifies specific, plausible ways AI may disrupt the career (12)
  - Identifies specific, plausible ways AI may benefit the career (13)

**3. Strategic use of AI for career advantage (15 pts)**

- Gives concrete strategies for using AI to gain an advantage in the chosen career (9)
- Includes a practical action plan for the next year (6)

**4. Markdown, Pandoc, and formatting (15 pts)**

- Markdown and reference files are well structured and convert successfully with Pandoc (8)
- Generated Word and PowerPoint files use the reference styles and are readable, organized, and professional (7)

**5. Presentation quality (10 pts)**

- Slides clearly summarize the report's main ideas (5)
- Slides are concise, readable, and appropriate for a short presentation (5)

**6. Website publication (10 pts)**

- Essay is posted on its own deployed webpage and is clearly linked from the existing site (5)
- Page styling matches the rest of the website and presents the essay in a readable web format (5)

**7. Sources, AI use, and completeness (5 pts)**

- Sources and AI-tool use are acknowledged clearly, and all required files and links are submitted (5)

**7 Academic Integrity and Collaboration**

You are encouraged to use AI tools extensively while developing this project. You may use AI to brainstorm career options, research how a career may change, generate questions, outline the report, draft sections, revise your writing, improve the slide deck, troubleshoot Markdown, and run or understand Pandoc commands.

The goal is to learn how to use AI as a serious tool for thinking, writing, technical production, and career preparation. However, you are still responsible for the final submission. You should check AI-generated claims for accuracy, revise the writing so that it reflects your own thinking, and make sure the career advice is realistic for the career you chose. In the sources and AI-use section of your report, briefly explain which AI tools you used and how they helped you complete the project.

You may discuss ideas with classmates, but your career analysis, Markdown files, Word document, and PowerPoint presentation must be your own work.