Read It Together

The Line at the Bottom

Knowing the rule, applying one test, and writing one honest line

The last plate has no new fact in it. It asks you to use the five you have to decide what fair use looks like, and to practise the one habit that makes the decision visible.

Step 1 · The starter · 5 min

Three briefs, three rules

Three assignments, each with a different rule about the tool: ideas only, spelling only, not at all. Why might the rules differ?

The spelling test is testing spelling. A tool that spells for you defeats the test. The rule follows what the task is for.

If you do not know the rule, asking is always allowed. Guessing the most convenient rule is not.

Step 2 · Pairs · 10 min

Three uses

Take one brief. List three ways you might use a tool on it: one clearly within the rule, one clearly outside it, one in between. The in-between case is the point. Write it down.

Step 3 · The test · 5 min

Could you explain it, and would you be comfortable?

Apply that to each of the three. Mark each comfortable or uncomfortable. The in-between case usually splits the pair, and the argument is the learning.

Step 4 · The line · 10 min

As it would appear on the work

Write the disclosure line for the comfortable use. Specific: "I used an AI tool to check spelling." Not "AI was used."

The vague form is a way of appearing to disclose while disclosing nothing. That is the standard to hold.

Specific or nothing

Vague lines and their true versions

The first draft is nearly always vague. One question, "used for what?", fixes it.

> Someone might say: AI was used.
>
> **I used an AI tool to outline the argument. The paragraphs and examples are mine.**

> Someone might say: AI assistance was used in accordance with all guidelines.
>
> **That is the machine's sentence. It names no function and no person.**

> Someone might say: I did it myself.
>
> **No tool.**

Plenary · 10 min

Close the course

Ask the model to write a disclosure line. It will produce something like "AI assistance was used in accordance with all guidelines." The room can say what is wrong with it.

Six plates: it predicts words; it is confidently wrong in predictable places; it is not a source; work is yours when the thinking is; it collects what you type; and you say how you used it, on the work, before anyone asks.

Write the sixth on the front of your next piece of assessed work. That is the assessment, next week.

What comes next

Nothing in the course

The habit, on every piece of work, for as long as the tools exist.

For the adult in the room

Notes

The failure to guard against is disclosure as confession. It is the same thing as a bibliography. Model it: say in one specific sentence how you used a tool to prepare the lesson, if you did.

The other failure is the vague line. Send "AI was used" back once with "used for what?"

"No tool" is a fine line. The habit is easier to keep if the line is always there.