

3½

Things

3½ Things AI Revealed About Us

What AI exposed about judgment, taste, and the future of talent

CREW Greater Philadelphia | April 22, 2026

THE 3½ THINGS

1

AI lowered the cost of looking capable.

It raised the premium on being discerning.

2

Taste is the difference between works and fits.

Works is competence. Fits is judgment.

3

If output gets easier, leadership gets harder.

Mentorship is no longer optional. It is a design challenge.

½

The moment I stop interrogating the output

is the moment I start outsourcing the judgment that makes me valuable.

THREE TOOLS TO USE THIS WEEK

TOOL 1 · FOR THE BRIEF

RISE+

Before you prompt, set the frame.

Role — Who AI is acting as.

Intent — What outcome you want.

Scope — How narrow or broad.

Expectations — What good looks like.

+ Iterate.

Most mediocre AI output comes from missing briefs, not missing capability.

TOOL 2 · FOR THE OUTPUT

Taste Test

Before it leaves your desk, ask:

Does this work?

Does this fit?

Works is competence. Fits is taste.

AI gives you the first. You bring the second.

TOOL 3 · FOR THE SCRUTINY

Judgment Loop

Interrogate every AI output:

Is it accurate?

Is it right for this situation?

Does it sound like me?

Same scrutiny you would apply to a colleague's draft. Make the question automatic.

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Your 30-Day Action Plan

Four weeks. Four habits. Built deliberately.

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The tools sharpen the day. The habits compound the year.

WEEK 1

Audit

Where does your judgment actually live?

Take your last five work deliverables. For each one, name the specific moment judgment actually mattered. Not where you did the work. Where you made the call. That list tells you where your value actually lives.

WEEK 2

Taste Test

Separate “works” from “fits.”

Before your next deliverable leaves your desk, ask two questions. Does this work? Does this fit this client, this moment, this voice? If it works but does not fit, rewrite until it does. Fit is where taste shows up.

WEEK 3

Mentor Forward

Build the next generation's judgment on purpose.

Have one conversation with a colleague early in their career. Ask how they know when their work is good enough. Listen to their answer. Then share how you learned to tell. That gap is the leadership work AI is making more urgent.

WEEK 4

Build a Judgment Loop

Interrogate AI output the way you would a junior colleague's draft.

When AI gives you an answer, run three questions. Is it accurate? Is it right for this situation? Does it sound like me? Make the interrogation automatic. The habit is the safeguard.

The real competitive advantage is still human.

That is the work.

Ever Upward.

Jigar B. Desai, PhD, PE, EMBA

Principal and Regional Manager, ECS Limited

[linkedin.com/in/drjigardesai](https://www.linkedin.com/in/drjigardesai) · threeandhalfthings.com

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