

Raised Nimble

You cannot out-compete AI.
But you can out-human it.

YOUR WEEKLY MOVE

Battle Map

Volume II · Stratagem 29 of 36



SCAN FOR
PARENT'S ART OF WAR

VOLUME II · STRATAGEM 29 OF 36

Critical Evaluation

"Use deception to appear stronger than you are. Decorate a tree with artificial flowers to make it appear full and vibrant. Create an illusion of abundance to intimidate or mislead."

— 36 Stratagems, Stratagem 29

STRATAGEM

Strip the blossoms and check the roots

AI generates fluent, confident answers that can be entirely fabricated. The skill your child needs is not avoiding AI — it is verifying every factual claim before trusting it. Teach them to trace assertions to their origin, evaluate source quality, and distinguish evidence from interpretation.

REMEMBER

41% of students submit fake citations

A 2024 Stanford study found that **41 percent** of high school students who used AI research tools submitted at least one citation to a source that did not exist.[5] They were not cheating. They were trusting output that looked authoritative. Your child will encounter this deception in every domain — homework, college applications, career research. The verification habit is what separates them from peers whose work collapses under scrutiny.

THIS WEEK

Three moves to run now

- Pick one piece of AI-generated content your child used this week — a homework answer, a research summary, a study guide. Sit down together and verify one factual claim. Look up the source, check the data, and trace it to its origin. Show them what real verification looks like.
- Establish a household rule: any citation your child submits in schoolwork must be something they have personally verified. If they cannot verify it, they cannot use it. This applies to AI-generated citations and human-written ones. Make verification non-negotiable.
- Teach your child to ask three questions about every AI-generated answer: Can this claim be checked? Where does this information come from? Am I trusting this because it is true, or because it sounds confident? These questions become automatic with repetition. Practice them together until they are habitual.

CORE INSIGHT

When AI generates answers, it decorates the tree with blossoms that look real but have no roots. Your child encounters this deception daily — homework helpers that sound authoritative but cite nonexistent sources, resume advisors that fabricate credentials, research tools that present coherent nonsense as fact. The parent who raises a child capable of spotting these illusions teaches systematic verification, not reflexive skepticism. You are preparing them for a career where the ability to evaluate truth claims will separate the replaceable from the indispensable.