

# The Two-Path Test

GAME

SKILL: SELF-ADVOCACY

45-60 MINUTES

## RECOMMENDED AGE RANGE

Ages 8-14 — old enough to reflect on their own learning process and articulate how different approaches feel

## WHAT YOU NEED

A device with access to an AI chatbot

Paper and pen for each player

A timer

3-4 homework-style questions at your kid's level

## ACTIVITY STEPS

- 01 Pick three questions that match your kid's grade level. They should be challenging enough to require real thought but doable without help. A math word problem, a history question, and a short creative writing prompt work well together.
- 02 For each question, take Path A first: your kid works alone for five minutes with no help. They write their answer and then rate how the process felt on a simple scale, from "I was really thinking" to "I was just going through the motions."
- 03 Then take Path B: try the same question using an AI tool. Write down the AI's answer too, and rate how that process felt using the same scale. Be honest about whether it felt like learning or like copying.
- 04 After all three rounds, lay out the answers side by side. Compare the quality, but spend more time comparing how each path felt. Have everyone write one sentence starting with "I noticed that when I used AI, I felt..." and one starting with "I noticed that when I did it myself, I felt..."
- 05 End with a family conversation: when is the AI path better? When is the solo path better? And most importantly, who should get to decide? Let your kid lead this part. Their answers will tell you a lot about how they are processing the role of AI in their learning right now.

### THE DEEPER LESSON

*A Gallup survey found that 80% of Gen Z worry AI will make learning harder in the long run, but most kids don't have the vocabulary to describe what they're feeling or the space to say it. This activity gives them both. Once a kid can tell the difference between "this felt like learning" and "this felt like copying," they have a compass for every AI decision that follows. Self-advocacy starts with self-awareness, and self-awareness starts with paying attention to what's real.*

### CONVERSATION STARTER

*If a tool makes the work faster but the learning slower, when is it worth using and when is it not, and who should get to decide that for you?*