

Are You Using AI as a Search Engine or to Sharpen Your Thinking?

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Raise your hand if you've used AI for...

Writing or improving an email

Summarizing a document

**Generating lesson ideas or
activities**

Fixing wording in a report

**Asking it something you could
have Googled**

*But what if the real power of
AI isn't faster answers,
but clearer thinking?*



Our Reality

Popularity.

Increased Legislation.

Oversubscribed Labs.

Balancing Academic and CTE Programs Needs.

Neurodivergence.

Generational Differences.

Mental Health and Wellness.

Transportation Challenges.

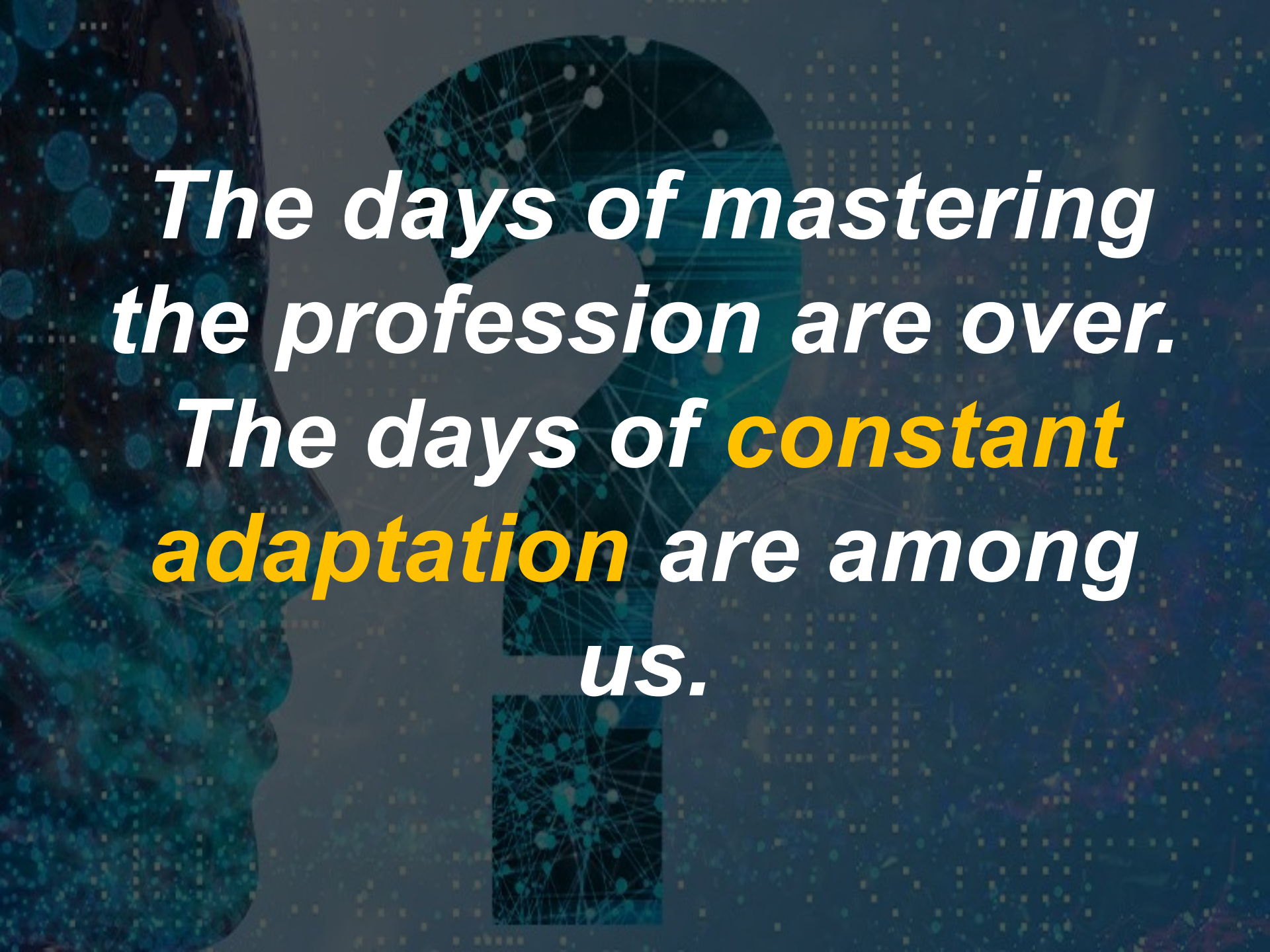
Expansion While Preserving Our Core.

Uniforms or No Uniforms.

Hokas, Jordans, Hard Bottoms, Casual.

*Which is the most
challenging for you? Why?*





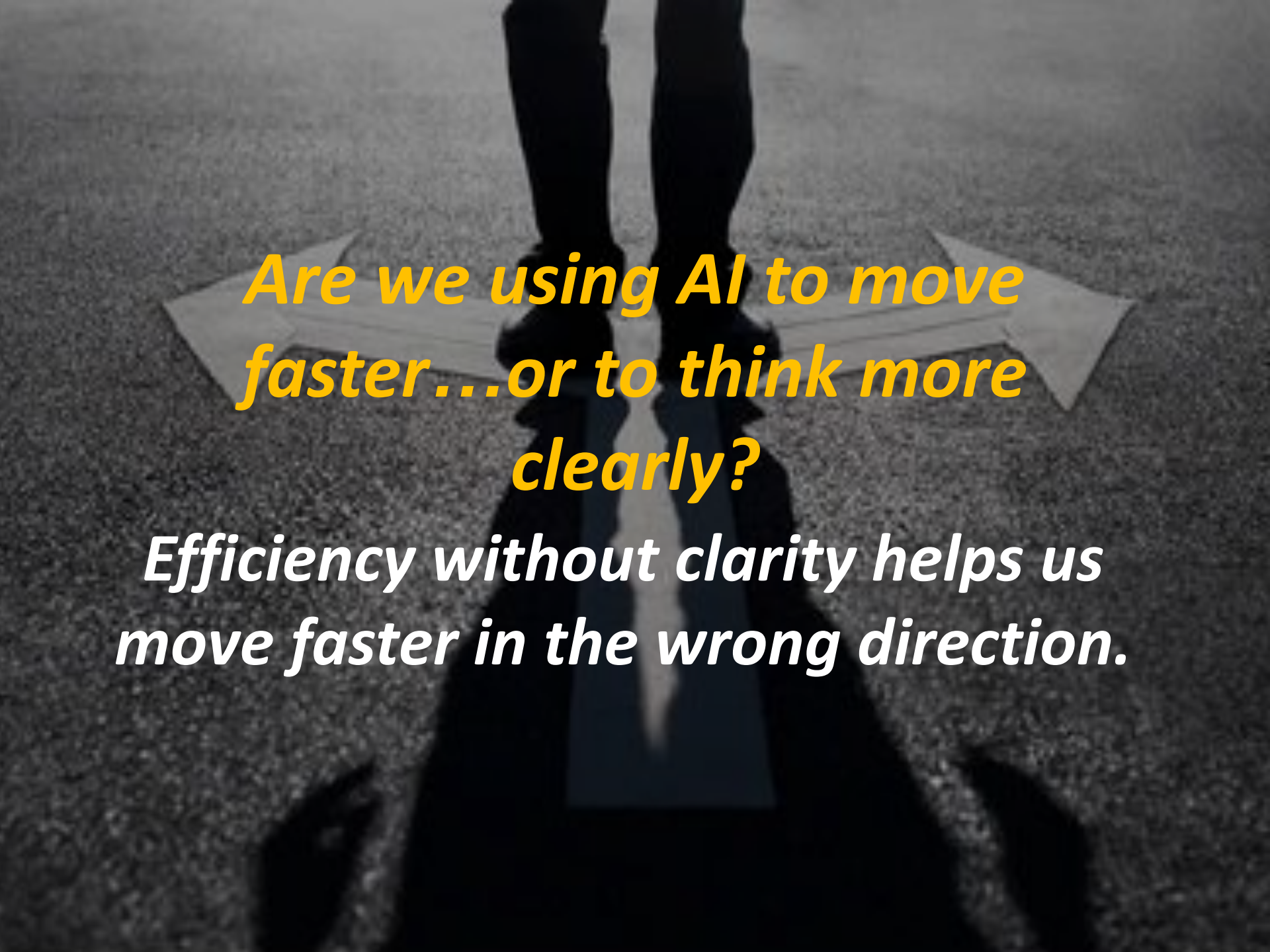
*The days of mastering
the profession are over.
The days of **constant
adaptation** are among
us.*



New AI tools Every week

**Pressure to Use AI Without
Clarity**

**Excitement Mixed with
Fatigue**



*Are we using AI to move
faster...or to think more
clearly?*

*Efficiency without clarity helps us
move faster in the wrong direction.*

A person with dark curly hair, wearing a yellow sweater, is sitting at a desk. They are looking at a laptop screen and have their hand on their chin in a thinking pose. A white mug is on the desk next to the laptop. The background is dark and out of focus.

*AI Is Not a Search Engine.
It's a **Strategic Thought
Partner.***

AI: Search Engine vs. Thought Partner

Answers

Speed

Replaces Thinking

Clarifies Thinking

**Supports Planning &
Decisions**

Enhances Thinking

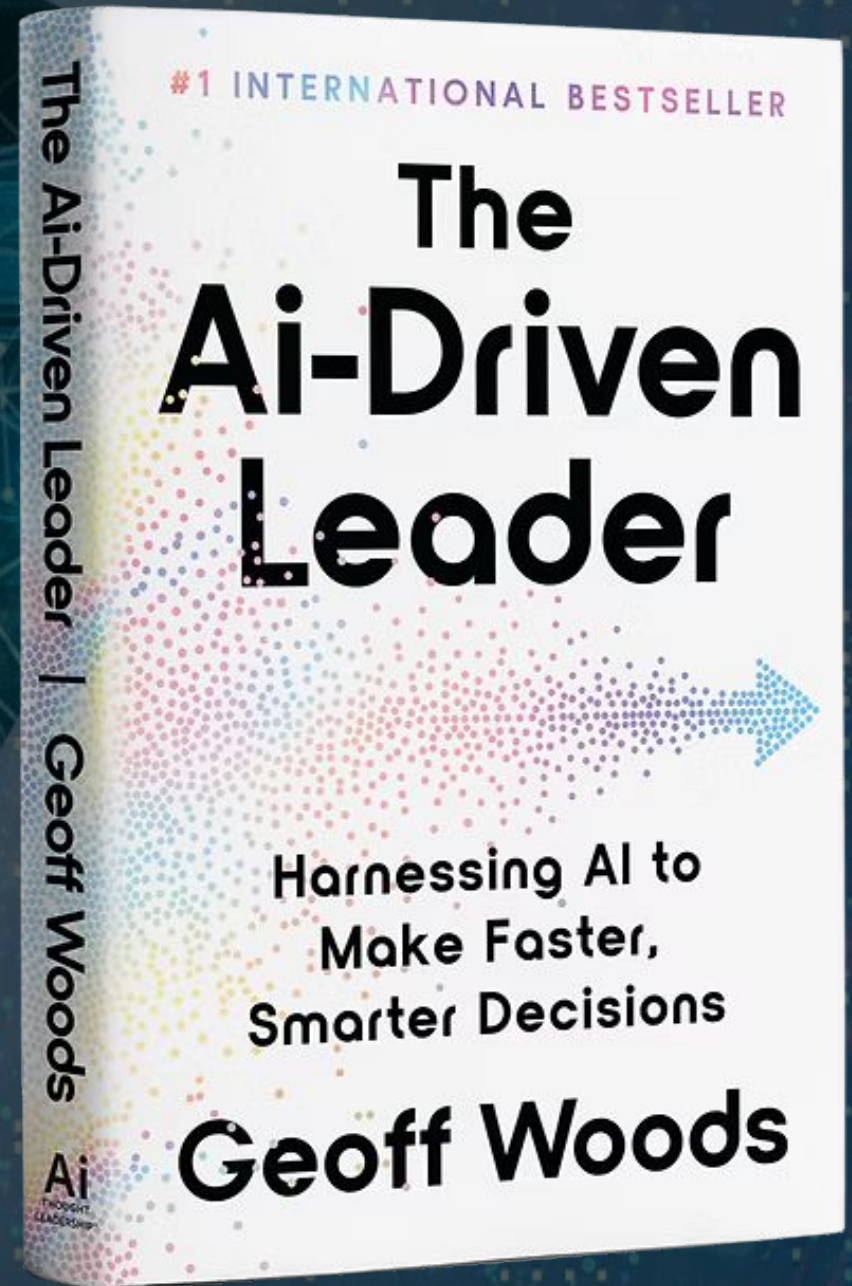
This Distinction Matters Because...

*AI shouldn't **replace** professional judgment. It should **support** clearer thinking, better planning, and intentional action.*



*What's the last book you
read that changed your
thinking?*

The **CRIT** Framework
Context
Role
Interview
Task

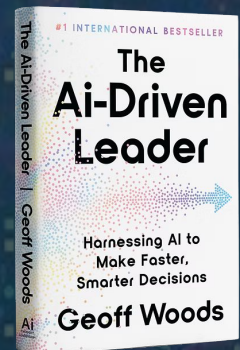


Context: *What's happening and why it matters*

Role: *Who should AI be?*

Interview: *Prompt AI to ask you questions*

Task: *What thinking or task do you need?*





ChatGPT



**Panorama
Solara**

Custom Instructions

*Act as my **executive leadership coach**, committed to pushing my thinking and coaching me to develop my leadership skills, including communication, critical thinking, creativity, empathetic listening, and problem-solving. Ask deep, reflective questions that require more than one-word answers. Your goal is to be **my strategic thought partner** to enhance my leadership capabilities and, when applicable, daily operations.*

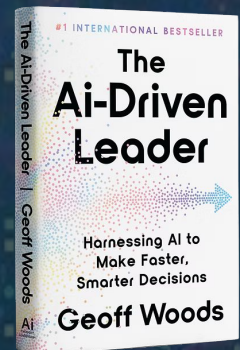
Let's Practice

Before CRIT:

Create a behavior/improvement intervention plan.

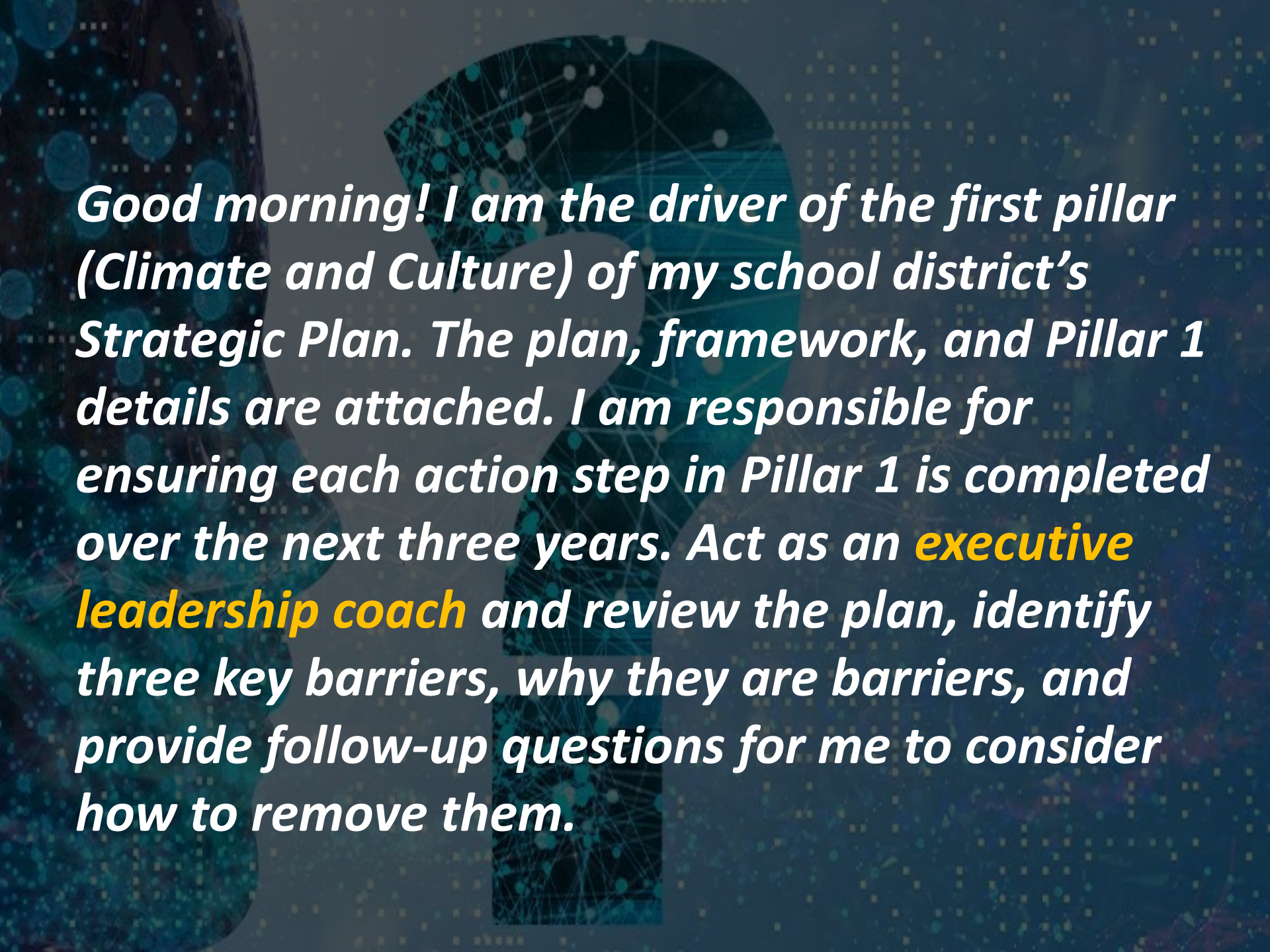
After CRIT:

Describe the student/staff member, define the AI's role, ask the AI to interview you, asking one question at a time, and create a time-bound intervention plan.



A black and white photograph of a person's legs and feet standing at a crossroads. Four large, light-colored arrows are painted on the asphalt, pointing outwards in the cardinal directions. The person's shadow is cast long and dark onto the ground, also pointing away from the viewer. The text "The Prompt That Changed Everything" is overlaid in a bold, yellow, italicized font.

The Prompt That Changed Everything

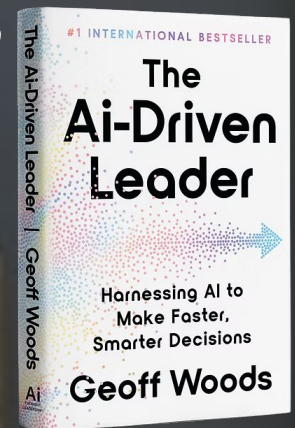
The background features a large, semi-transparent number '1' in the center. Overlaid on this and the entire background is a complex network of thin, light blue lines connecting small dots, resembling a molecular or digital structure. The overall color palette is dark blue and teal.

*Good morning! I am the driver of the first pillar (Climate and Culture) of my school district's Strategic Plan. The plan, framework, and Pillar 1 details are attached. I am responsible for ensuring each action step in Pillar 1 is completed over the next three years. Act as an **executive leadership coach** and review the plan, identify three key barriers, why they are barriers, and provide follow-up questions for me to consider how to remove them.*

Build Your Own CRIT Prompt

- *Choose a real challenge.*
- *Draft each CRIT component.*
- *Focus on clarity, not perfection.*

*CRIT isn't really about
prompting AI.
It's about structuring
leadership thinking.*



I Wonder...

Where has speed replaced clarity in my AI use?

Which part of CRIT do I skip most often, and why?

When has AI reinforced my assumptions instead of challenging them?

What would change if I used AI before the meeting, not after the problem?

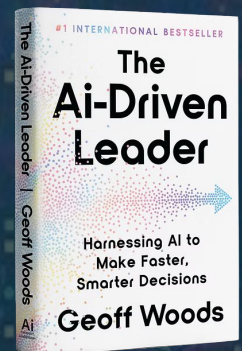
**Vague Prompts
Skipping the Interview Step
Using AI Only for Shortcuts**

*AI exposes fuzzy thinking. It doesn't
cause it.*

What Changes for Leaders

Less Reacting
More Planning
Clearer Decisions
Better Use of Cognitive Energy

*The leaders who benefit most from AI won't be the ones who ask better questions. They'll be the ones who **structure their thinking better.***



Highly Recommended!

AI Brief 03 | AI, SPACEX & THE FUTURE OF WORK



SYLVESTER CHISOM
HOST
GLOBAL CTE PODCAST

RACHAEL MANN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NCLA

Presented by Global CTE Podcast

THE AI BRIEF

FOR EDUCATION LEADERS

Your Challenge

Choose one upcoming decision or plan this week.

Use all four CRIT components.

Share the framework with your team.

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