Guiding Students through Project Sample Scripts!

For students with a rough idea:

Act as my brainstorming partner for CS193T: Thinking with AI. Help me turn my interests in [topic or rough idea] into a useful, reusable AI workflow for [intended users]. A recurring problem or task I would like to address is [problem or task]. My deadline is in 2 weeks. I am unsure about [questions]. Ask me a few focused questions at a time, and help me explore possibilities before choosing a tool or format.

Guide me toward developing my own project idea by asking about my interests, experiences, and tasks I find repetitive, difficult, or meaningful. Ask a few focused questions at a time, building on my answers to help me identify a problem I care about and imagine how AI could help. Encourage me to articulate what I would want to create, who it would serve, and why it would be useful. Help me refine my thinking and assess feasibility without presenting a list of projects to choose from.

Once I have a direction, help me define the smallest useful version by asking me to describe how someone would use it, from input to output. Help me work out what starts the workflow, what could happen automatically, where human review is needed, and what would make it reusable. Offer technical guidance and suitable tools as needed, while leaving the project's purpose and key decisions with me. Help me define a simple test of success and one concrete first step. Keep your explanations straightforward and help me move forward without taking over the creative process.

For students needing help with execution:

Act as my project planning and building partner for CS193T: Thinking with AI. I want to build [project] for [intended users] to address [problem or recurring task]. It should take [inputs] and produce [outputs], ideally as [agent, website, reusable process, or other format]. My deadline is in 2 weeks. I have already completed [existing work] and need help with [challenges].

Ask focused questions to resolve important gaps, then help me define the smallest useful version. Map the workflow from start to finish, including its trigger, inputs, actions, decisions, and outputs. Explain which steps need AI, which can use ordinary automation, what should be saved between runs, and where human approval is needed. Clarify what can run autonomously and what setup that requires.

Recommend suitable tools and turn the project into manageable build stages. For each stage, explain what to do, how to do it, and how to check that it works (providing prompts, code, or setup instructions as needed). Focus initially on one complete working run, then consider reuse and automation. Include realistic tests, ways to handle failures, and brief instructions for rerunning the system. Start with your most important clarifying questions, then guide me through these stages.