

OHVA · AUGUST 5, 2026

The Shortcut

What Is Learning When AI Can Do the Work?

STATIC OFFLINE FALLBACK
• QR/URL HOLD

No public destination is embedded. Four private choices appear on screen; nothing is sent.

Submission 23 of 47.

Two polished essays.
Two evidence paths.



Two polished essays.

MAYA

Clear. Organized. Insightful.

JORDAN

Clear. Organized. Insightful.

Same rubric. Same score. Different evidence paths.

Could you tell?

Do not answer out loud.

**The artifact looks the
same.**

The learning is not.

The Shortcut

What Is Learning When AI Can Do the Work?

SHORTCUT PULSE 1

Imagine a safe, free shortcut that gives a student genuine mastery—not merely the answer, not a convincing imitation. Real understanding, instantly. Would you let a student take it?

Take it

Refuse it

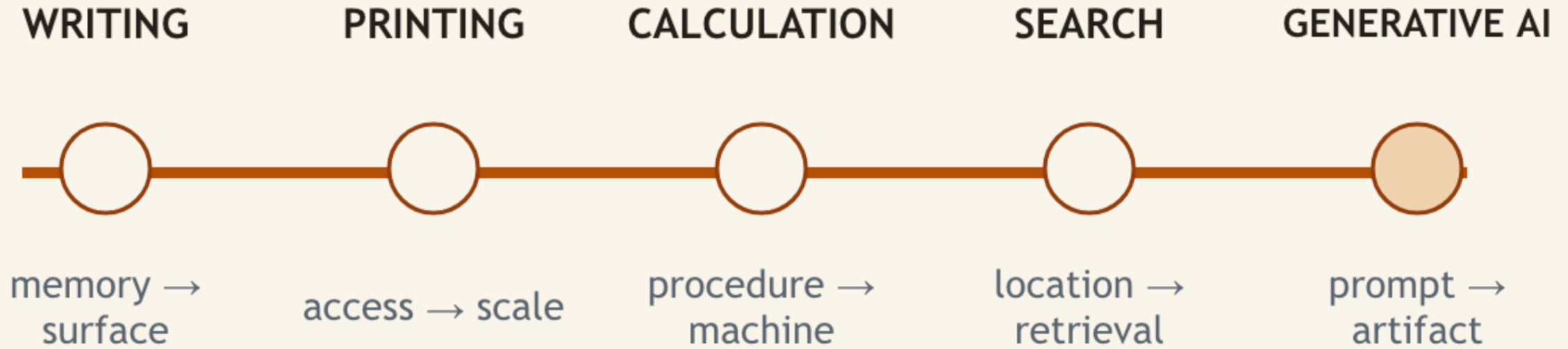
It depends

| Choose privately. Then phones down. Keep your answer.

**The exhaustion is not just the
grading.**

It is the not-knowing.

A widening circle of possibility.



Every tool changes what humans practice.

36:19–38:15

What disappeared with the calculation?

StarTalk · Quasar Quirks & Sky Surveys

Chuck Nice · Neil deGrasse Tyson · Matt O'Dowd

Sometimes we offload the procedure

before we understand the capacity the repetition was building.

SHORTCUT PULSE 2

Would you give instant mastery to your own child—or to the student you would fight hardest for—knowing no one else could have it?

Yes

No

| Choose privately. Then phones down. Keep your answer.

The receipt is not the development.

A grade, credential, product, or status can surround learning without defining it.

Learning is a durable change

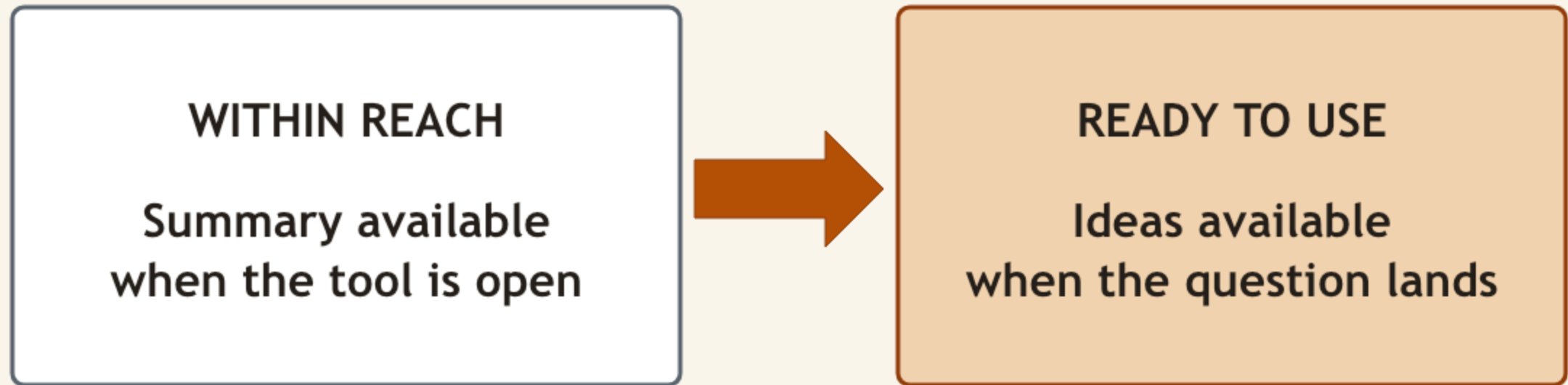
in what a person can remember, explain, judge, create, or do—something that still belongs to them when the tool is gone.

Authentic Understanding



What lives inside? · What is judged? · Who responds? · Which friction forms? ·
What can the learner call mine?

The material thinking works with.



Information within reach is not knowledge ready to use.

Critical thinking with skin in the game.



A thought experiment is a bicep curl for judgment.

Thinking in public with other humans.

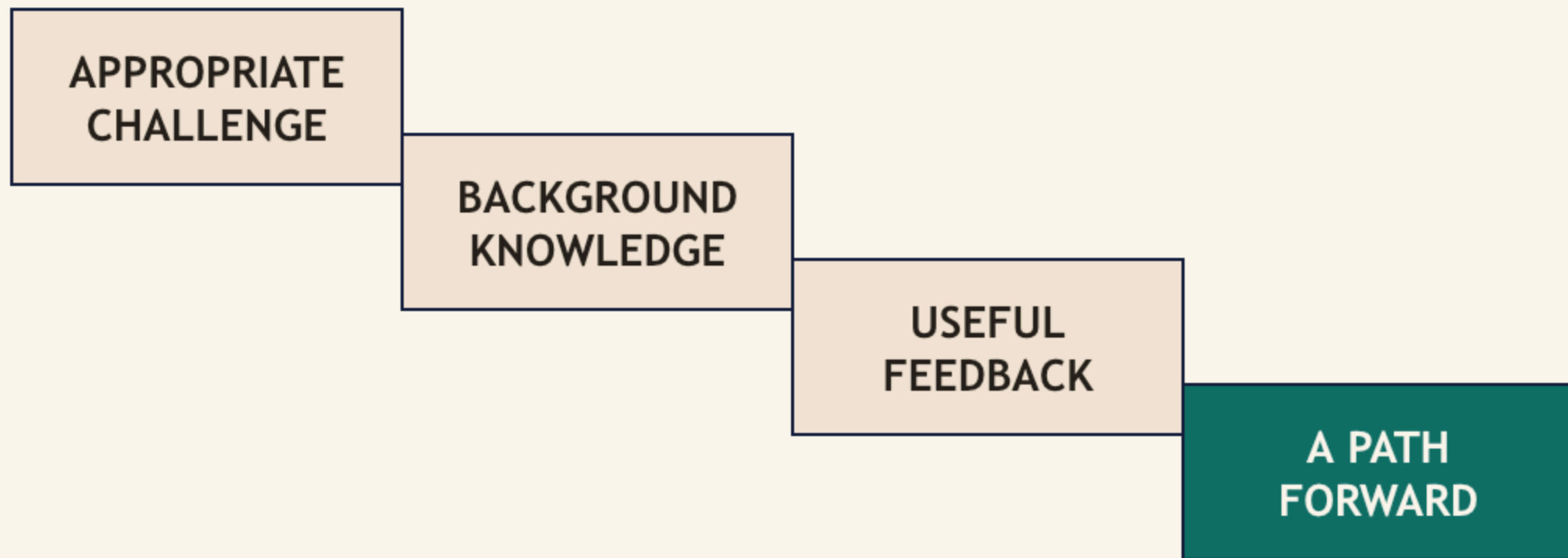
WAIT—
I READ THAT
DIFFERENTLY.



LET ME RESTATE THAT—
THEN ANSWER IT.

A real response changes what comes next.

Friction that changes the learner.



Hard is not automatically good. Support makes struggle formative.

I can think, make, revise, and decide.



The learner remains a participant in the work—not merely a consumer of its result.

SHORTCUT PULSE 3

Every person can gain any knowledge or skill instantly. Should schools still exist?

Yes

No

They would need to become fundamentally different

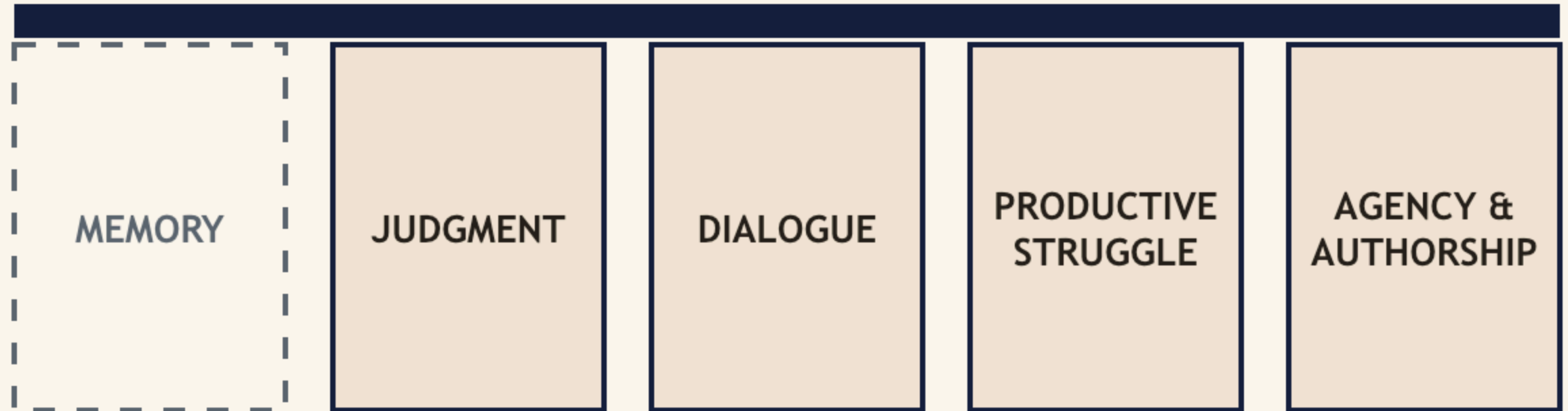
| Choose privately. Then phones down. Keep your answer.

Which capacity is most at risk

in your virtual classroom this year—and what makes you say that?

One person near you. A genuine conversation.

The product does not sag



when the learning goes missing.

You were not hired

to be a plagiarism detective.

Move the work upstream.



AI can recover planning energy. Human judgment still chooses what counts as understanding.

Destination before activity.

1 • DESTINATION
Student-facing goal

2 • MILESTONES
Observable evidence

3 • TEACHER OVERRIDE
Measure • Predict
Build/Sketch • Defend

AI can map the staircase. It cannot climb it for the student.

This does not make outsourcing impossible.

1

DRAFT TRACE

Point to one revision.

2

SPECIFIC EXPLANATION

What changed—and
why?

3

CURIOUS FOLLOW-UP

Respond when the
next question is not
known.

It makes thinking more visible. Workload still counts.

Describe the work.

A
ALLOWED

The tool does not
touch the learning
target.

L
LIMITED

The student must
show the process.

×
OFF-LIMITS

The thinking itself is
what we are
assessing.

Never describe the worth of the child.

The first image was beautiful. It was also wrong.



The Shortcut

Computer scientist [Daniel Lemire](#) posed a version of this question in 2012: imagine a pill granting instant expert knowledge. He predicted the pill would be made illegal, educators would insist knowledge is "just one component," and degrees would persist because they signal character. A decade later, AI is testing every one of those predictions.

This experiment asks you to confront four escalating versions of the same

BEAUTIFUL · WRONG FOR OHVA



OHVA-TRUE · HOME WORKSPACE

AI can construct the means. Human judgment chooses what is truthful.

SHORTCUT PULSE 4

A ten-year-old can bypass learning to read but is guaranteed genuine comprehension for life. Should the child take the Shortcut?

Yes—the knowledge goal is met

No—the developmental process still matters

| Choose privately. Then phones down. Keep your answer.

The path is not a verdict.



It is a mirror.

The person becoming more capable was always the point.

Maya • Grade A

Jordan • Grade A

What did this task require the student to do that mattered?

MEMORY • JUDGMENT • DIALOGUE
PRODUCTIVE STRUGGLE • AGENCY & AUTHORSHIP

One thing you protect. One thing you release.

One task I will redesign so the thinking stays human:

One burden I will let AI carry so I get a piece of my evening back:

The artifact was never the point.

The child is the point.

Use the tool. Keep the judgment.

RESOURCES FOR THE WORK AHEAD.

<https://whatlearningbuilds.org/resources>

