

CDSS 94 (UC Berkeley): Posttraining

Project 1 Checkpoint A

Instructors: Karina Nguyen & Kevin Miao • Spring 2026

Checkpoint: Project 1 Checkpoint (A)

Due on Gradescope: February 9, 2026 at 4:59pm

Deliverables (Project 1A)

1. **Team Formation:** 2 to 4 students. Find teammates via Slack `#project-partners`.
2. **Gradescope enrollment:** Enroll using invite code 6X7K5K.
3. **Submission:** 1-2 page PDF write-up (detailed below).

Goal of this checkpoint (Project 1A)

This is an **alignment document**: the point is to get your team (and the course staff) thinking together about a problem space that excites you. For this assignment, your team will pick a real-world problem space and write a concise memo that answers: *what problem exists, why it matters, what current approaches get wrong, and how an/your AI solution could help*.

Note. Your problem statement will **evolve**. It is expected (and encouraged) that what you thought was the core problem in Week 1 changes as you talk to users, build prototypes, train models, and test your assumptions.

Guiding questions

You do **not** need to use a rigid section structure. Treat the questions below as a checklist to make sure your memo is complete.

1. **What is the problem space?** Who are the stakeholders, and what does the end-to-end workflow look like today?
2. **Where is the pain?** What are 2-5 concrete problems you see (what breaks, who it impacts, and why it is hard)?
3. **What is already being tried?** What tools (including AI) are currently used, and where do they fail in practice (accuracy, robustness, trust, workflow mismatch, evaluation gaps, data constraints, privacy, incentives)? If no AI is used, why not?
4. **What AI tool would you propose?** What would it do (inputs/outputs), who uses it, and where does it fit in the workflow? Include short example scenarios.
5. **How would you measure success?** Give measurable tests/metrics, “must-not-fail” constraints, and a definition of a minimum viable win.
6. **Why are you excited about this?** Why this problem, why now, and why your team? What unique angle or access do you have?