

AI in the Real World

Data, Power, & Society - Day 11

Making Decisions with GenAI

CMSE 492 (aka CMSE 101) • Fall 2026

Prof. Danny Caballero

One Rule

On Wednesday, we made decisions about budget cuts in groups with and without Generative AI.

- Folks developed different rationale for making their cuts grounded in their discussions and values
- GenAI systems made cuts differently and, often, didn't agree between groups or group members

There are numerous examples of where Generative AI (and other automated systems) have made, or been used to make, decisions for people (e.g., Michigan's MiDAS, Australia's Robodebt, Department of Government Efficiency)

Table Discussion

If a government office uses GenAI to support budget decisions, what is the one rule it must follow?

- Share your rule with your group mates.
- We will ask groups to share out and we will document them.

Your Actions Case

This week you add **Actions** and **Critical Literacy** to your DTPA analysis. From the Week 4 materials, a specific claim for Actions names a **decision, a consequence, and a person who instigated it or could have stopped it**:

- **Stated goal vs. outcome** — what was the system for, did it do that, and who was positioned to notice the difference? Include what it achieved, not just what it broke.
- **Who benefited, who paid, who decided** — name all three if you can, and say whether they overlap. The interesting cases are the ones where the decider bore none of the cost.
- **What the output incentivized** — not what the system could do, but what its *existence* made easy, profitable, or safe to do (and costly to refuse).
- **The remedy, and what it would not have caught** — name what actually changed, then state its limit. "Add a human in the loop" is not an answer by itself: *MiDAS's human-reviewed cases were still wrong 44% of the time.*

For **Critical Literacy**, add: how does this case fit existing AI narratives ("solution" vs. "existential threat"), and where does your group land between skepticism and practical judgment?

Reminders

Exit Tickets, D2L, and the Course Website

- Don't forget to complete today's Exit Ticket by 11:59pm **Today** (on D2L)
- Case Study 4 due 11:59pm **Sunday**
- Individual and Metacognitive Reflection 4 due 11:59pm **Sunday**
- Spend time before Sunday (~90 minutes) going over Week 5's preparatory materials
 - Forum Post due 11:59pm **Sunday** (*note the new format!*)

Your instructors will give detailed feedback on Week 4's assignments by Wednesday.

Sign into your new groups by Monday's class.



MSU vs Nebraska (17:00 Saturday on BTN)

#1 Texas vs #14 Tennessee (12:00 Saturday on ABC)

