FOR PARENTS, PTAS & SCHOOL LEADERS

SCHOOL & PTA KIT

Take the pledge to your school. We're not anti-AI. We're pro-brain.

01 START HERE P. 2
Why this matters, what we're asking for and a four-step plan

02 THE PRESENTATION P. 3–5
A 10-slide talk with talking points you can give in 20 minutes

03 SAMPLE POLICY LETTER P. 6
A letter to your principal or school board. Fill in the brackets.

04 PARENT-NIGHT GUIDE P. 7–8
A 75-minute plan, discussion prompts and a sign-up sheet

START HERE

OUR KIDS ARE LEARNING WITH THE GAP CLOSED

My eight-year-old daughter once told me, in total awe, that AI *"knows everything."* She wasn't describing a tool. She was describing a worldview: that the machine's answer and the right answer are the same thing.

When we were kids there was a gap between a question and its answer. We filled it by wondering, searching and guessing wrong. That's where thinking got built. Our children are growing up with the gap closed, and school is where it matters most.

A high school sophomore caught turning in an AI essay wasn't ashamed. He was confused: *"Isn't the point to get the answer?"* That's the False Win. You get the result and skip the learning.

— Erica Dhawan

WHAT WE'RE ASKING FOR

- **Not a ban.** AI is here, and kids will need to use it well.
- **The Calculator Rule.** Students show they can do it by hand before the tool comes in, the same way we teach math before calculators.
- **Some AI-free zones,** especially first drafts in elementary and middle school, because writing is thinking.
- **Show-your-thinking** expectations and honest disclosure when AI helps in high school.
- **A partnership** between home and school, so kids hear one message.

YOUR FOUR-STEP PLAN

1

Find two parents

Share the pledge with two parents who care. Three voices are a movement. One is a complaint.

2

Meet the principal

Bring the sample letter (p. 6). Ask what the school already does, and listen first.

3

Host a parent night

Use the presentation and run-of-show (p. 3–8). Aim for 20 families.

4

Bring a proposal

Take what you heard to the PTA or school board, with names on the sign-up sheet behind you.

Tone tip: teachers are on our side. Most are already fighting this battle with no backup. Lead with "How can we help?" and not "Why haven't you...?"

20 MINUTES · 10 SLIDES

THE PRESENTATION

Build the slides in yellow and black using the text on each thumbnail. The talking points are a guide, so use your own stories wherever you can.

SLIDE 1

USE YOUR BRAIN: RAISING THINKERS IN THE AGE OF AI

[School name] Parent Night · [Date]

Welcome · 1 min

Introduce yourself as a parent, not an expert. Say why you're in the room.

> *"I'm not here to scare anyone off technology. I'm here because I noticed something at my own kitchen table, and I bet you have too."*

SLIDE 2

"MOMMY, IT KNOWS EVERYTHING."

The moment · 2 min

Tell Erica's story: an eight-year-old, awestruck by the AI voice that answered every question on a car ride, told her mom the robot "knows everything."

> *"There used to be a gap between a question and its answer. Inside that gap is where kids learn to wonder. That gap is closing."*

Ask the room: *Has your child said something like this?*

SLIDE 3

AI IS THE COGNITIVE ELECTRIC SCOOTER

If they never step off, their legs never get strong.

The metaphor · 2 min

In a Florida park, a three-year-old rode an electric scooter while his dad worked the remote. He wasn't pushing or balancing. He was just being carried along.

> *"For adults who learned to think first, AI is a scooter we know how to ride. Our kids haven't built their legs yet."*

SLIDE 4

"ISN'T THE POINT TO GET THE ANSWER?"

The False Win: the result without the learning

The classroom · 2 min

A sophomore turned in an AI essay on *The Great Gatsby* and forgot to delete the words "Regenerate Response." His teacher wasn't worried about cheating, since kids have always done that. What worried her was that he couldn't see why it mattered.

> *"The essay isn't the goal. The thinking it builds is."*

SLIDE 5

WHAT'S REALLY AT STAKE

Writing · Judgment · Resilience

Three costs · 3 min

- **Writing is thinking.** When kids outsource the draft, they skip the part that teaches them to build an argument.
- **Voice.** A college admissions expert who worked at Yale says AI-polished essays read "like a press release."
- **Resilience.** Some anxious teens ask chatbots for reassurance again and again. A bot never says, "You need to sit with this." Friends and parents can.

SLIDE 6

NOT ANTI-AI. PRO-BRAIN.

The Calculator Rule: prove it by hand first.

Our stance · 2 min

We reject both "AI everywhere" and "ban it all." We don't give first graders calculators. We teach them to add, and then hand them the tool.

> *"Prove you can do it with your own brain, then use the tool to go further."*

SLIDE 7

R · I · D · A

Reflect · Interrogate · Discern · Be Accountable

Four questions kids can learn · 3 min

- **Reflect:** "What did I think before I asked?"
- **Interrogate:** "What would have to be true for this to be wrong?"
- **Discern:** "Is this true, or just well phrased?"
- **Be Accountable:** "If it's wrong, whose name is on it?"

These come from *Use Your Brain* and work from a second-grade classroom up to a boardroom.

IF SOMEONE PUSHES BACK

"AI is faster. Why make kids write by hand?"

"We aren't optimizing for speed of output. We're optimizing for quality of thought. Speed is cheap. Insight is expensive."

"They'll need AI for their jobs."

"Absolutely. The employees who stand out will be the ones who can think without it, check it and explain their reasoning. We build that first."

"Kids have always cheated."

"True. What's new is kids who don't see why it matters. We want them to know the thinking is the point."

SLIDE 8

WHAT SCHOOL CAN DO

Ideas to explore with teachers · 3 min

- **Elementary & middle:** analog first drafts with pen, paper and in-class writing.
- **High school:** AI allowed after students show their thinking (a handwritten outline or a first draft).
- **Logic audits:** "Walk me through how you got there." If a student can't explain it, the work isn't theirs yet.
- **Honest disclosure:** "AI helped with ___. The analysis is mine."

SLIDE 9

WHAT HOME CAN DO

Free tools at momsagainstaiaddiction.org

Hand them tools · 2 min

- **Family AI Agreement:** a one-page fridge agreement on when AI helps and when it doesn't.
- **Kitchen-Table Scripts:** what to say when your kid says "but ChatGPT said…"
- **30-Day Think-for-Yourself Challenge:** one small family practice a day.

SLIDE 10

TAKE THE PLEDGE. JOIN US.

Next meeting: [Date] · Contact: [Name, email]

The ask · 2 min, then Q&A

Make three specific asks and pass the sign-up sheet (p. 8):

- Sign the family pledge tonight.
- Join a small parent working group.
- Come to the next PTA meeting where we'll share a proposal.

> *"Moms changed how this country thinks about drunk driving. We can change how our kids think about thinking."*

Optional live demo (5 min): Spot the Robot. Read two short paragraphs about the same topic, one written by a parent and one by AI. Ask the room to vote. Then share the clues: AI tends to sound polite, perfectly neat and "room temperature." People sound jagged, opinionated and unsure.

COPY, CUSTOMIZE, SEND

SAMPLE LETTER

Replace everything [in brackets]. Keep it to one page and get more than one parent to sign.

[Date]

Dear [Principal / Members of the School Board],

We are parents of students at [School name], writing in partnership, not complaint. We know our teachers are working hard to keep up with how quickly AI tools have arrived in our children's lives, and we want to help.

We aren't asking the school to ban AI. Our children will need to use it well. We're asking that they first build the thinking skills AI can't give them: writing a first draft, weighing evidence, forming an opinion and staying with a hard problem. Just as students learn arithmetic before they use calculators, we believe they should show they can think it through on their own before a tool does it for them.

We respectfully ask the school to consider:

1. **AI-free first drafts** in elementary and middle school, with in-class, handwritten writing where possible.
2. **"Show your thinking" expectations** in high school, such as an outline, notes or first draft before AI is used, and the chance to explain the work out loud.
3. **A clear disclosure norm** when AI is used, for example: "AI helped with research. The analysis is mine."
4. **A home–school partnership,** including a parent night and shared family resources, so students hear one consistent message.
5. **A small working group** of teachers, parents and [students] to review this policy each year as the tools change.

Our families have signed the Moms Against AI Addiction pledge to think together at home. We would love to bring that same commitment to school, and we'd welcome a meeting to hear what is already working and where we can help.

With gratitude,

[Names, grades of children, contact information]
[Number] families of [School name]

75 MINUTES · 15–60 FAMILIES

PARENT NIGHT RUN OF SHOW

0:00 10 MIN	**Arrive & Spot the Robot** As families arrive, give each one a card with two short paragraphs, one human and one AI. They guess which is which and drop the card in a jar.
0:10 20 MIN	**The presentation** Slides 1–10 (p. 3–5). Keep it personal. Your own kitchen-table story beats any statistic.
0:30 25 MIN	**Small-group conversations** Tables of 5–6 parents, each with a volunteer host and the prompts on p. 8. Mix grade levels if you can.
0:55 10 MIN	**Report back** Each table shares one worry and one idea worth trying. Write them on a big sheet up front.
1:05 10 MIN	**Reveal & the ask** Reveal the Spot the Robot answers. Pass the sign-up sheet, invite everyone to take the pledge, and announce the next date.

BRING

- [ ] Printed Spot the Robot cards and a jar
- [ ] Laptop and projector for the slides
- [ ] Prompt cards for each table (p. 8)
- [ ] Sign-up sheets and pens
- [ ] Printouts of the three family tools
- [ ] Snacks (they matter more than you think)

HOST TIPS

- [ ] Invite a teacher to co-host. It signals partnership.
- [ ] No shaming. Every parent in the room has handed over the phone at some point. Erica did too.
- [ ] Keep the AI-skeptic and AI-enthusiast parents talking. You want both in the room.
- [ ] End on time and send a follow-up email within 48 hours.

TABLE PROMPTS

Cut these out for each table host.

1. **The moment.**
   When did you first notice your child trusting AI more than their own guess?
2. **The gap.**
   What did you figure out as a kid, slowly, that your child now looks up in seconds?
3. **The scooter.**
   What skill do you want your child to build by hand before they get the tool?
4. **Home.**
   Where could your family have an AI-free zone this week, like dinner, bedtime or first drafts?
5. **School.**
   What would you most want teachers to know about what you see at home?
6. **Our ask.**
   If we brought one idea to the school, which would help most?

SIGN UP · TAKE THE PLEDGE

NAME	EMAIL	CHILD'S GRADE(S)	WORKING GROUP?

PLEDGE TO THINK TOGETHER Every family can sign online at **momsagainstaiaddiction.org**