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Reflection #1

In all honesty, I was shell-shocked after starting my internship. I thought, maybe naïvely, that instruction at school would help prepare me for the workforce. During the first two weeks of the internship, I was trying to get my bearings and became increasingly anxious about realizing how much I did not know. I felt very lost and lacked clear direction; there wasn't really a training period for this internship. I have come to appreciate that because some jobs may have no training at all and expect you to figure it out and start working. I noticed I immediately fell into my bad habit of overcompensating myself to make up for how much I did not know. In an effort to overcompensate, I tried to do *everyone's* job, which became exhausting very quickly. I found myself almost burning out and didn't notice until it was almost too late. I currently work part-time, attend summer school full-time, take care of my family, and do this internship alongside another internship. I fully expected to be burnt out by the time fall came around because I had too much on my plate. I had a very important conversation with someone dear to me that helped me accept asking for help or handing off tasks to someone else.

Once I accepted that, I started looking critically at my tasks and gave them my full attention. The issue with AI detection is that there isn't currently a way to detect AI without using AI, and AI is naturally flawed. My priorities with AI detection are making the information accessible. I created a very complicated reporting system that took into account (1) the person posting did not know they posted AI, (2) the person reporting it mistakenly thought the post was AI, and (3) preventing spam reports to ensure no one is being silenced. Through discussions with my supervisor and teammates, we came up with a simpler solution in which each post could have a potential discussion thread about whether it was AI-generated. This gave people the chance to learn tips and tricks from each other, educated those who had no clue, and shared information to validate those posts (such as eyewitness accounts).

Another task I have been working on is creating secure messaging on the platform. I have delved deeply into research, and through it, I realized how hard it is to find useful information. I found several articles offering ideas on how to be secure, but none of them delved into the meat and potatoes of how to do so. Like trying to find a needle in a haystack, I've become very proficient at creating search sequences to get what I need and at skimming pages upon pages of articles to see if they're any use. Now, my next challenge is to test ideas to determine which security method would be best suited for the platform. Trying to find ways to test this has also proven challenging, spending hours searching the internet only to come up empty-handed. One habit I need to develop is documentation; instructors often speak about it and gloss over it, but I have never had the chance to build

that habit. This is a great learning curve as I struggle to distinguish what is important enough to document and what isn't.