

Make AI a Study Tool You Can Trust

A practical guide for flight instructors and their students.

Your students are already asking AI for aviation answers. The trouble is that a raw chatbot will state a wrong regulation or a wrong V-speed with total confidence. **The fix isn't to ban it. It's to make it answer from real, current FAA documents instead of the open internet, and to keep the instructor as the final word.**

THE ONE MOVE

Source-grounding. Feed the AI the actual documents and tell it to answer only from those, with citations. The student stops guessing and starts verifying, and you can see exactly where every answer came from.

The recipe

Works on any tool that lets you add your own documents.

- 1 Pick a tool that accepts your documents.** Free, capable options include Google NotebookLM, ChatGPT (Projects or file uploads), Claude (Projects), and Microsoft Copilot.
- 2 Load the real sources.** The PHAK (FAA-H-8083-25), the Airplane Flying Handbook, the AIM, the ACS for the certificate, and the aircraft POH. FAA handbooks are free at faa.gov; the POH comes from the manufacturer.
- 3 Set the rule.** Tell it to answer only from those documents, and to cite the page or section.
- 4 Ask in plain English, then verify.** Open the citation and confirm it against the source before trusting the answer.
- 5 Keep it current.** Swap a document out when a regulation or POH changes. The model's own training is frozen in time; your sources don't have to be.

What to tell your students

- › **AI for concepts.** The FAR/AIM and the POH for the numbers.
- › **The thinner your own knowledge,** the more you verify.
- › **Never act on AI** for a reg, airspace, weather, or a performance number without checking the source.
- › **When AI teaches you something,** bring it to your instructor and check it together.

FREE

Do it with NotebookLM

Google's free, source-grounded tool.

- 1** Go to **notebooklm.google.com** and sign in with a free Google account.
- 2** Click **New Notebook**.
- 3** Click **Add source** and upload your FAA PDFs. It also takes links and pasted text.
- 4** Ask questions in the chat panel. Answers come only from your sources, each with a numbered citation.
- 5** Click any citation to jump to the exact passage. Verify, then trust.
- 6** Optional: **Audio Overview** turns your sources into a study podcast.

Buttons may move over time; the flow stays the same. The free tier handles everything a student needs here.

Kauai Mansur is a private pilot and a cybersecurity professional who builds AI for high-stakes fields like aviation. Building something for your own flight school, or have a question about any of this? Happy to help:
kauai@vectoredops.com

Created for the National Association
of Flight Instructors
and its More Right Rudder podcast