

Impact Report

Student AI Research Collective (SAIRC)

September 2026 · sairc.vercel.app

What SAIRC is

The goal of SAIRC is to help students without connections or resources learn about AI. We publish a free research journal and write research resource guides to help students, and we offer free AI classes for Austin-area seniors. The organisation was started in early 2026 by two students at Westwood High School in Austin, Texas, after several months of trying to find somewhere to publish a machine learning project.

Doing AI research without existing connections or mentorship is difficult. Posting to arXiv without an institutional endorsement is not permitted, and many journals require a university affiliation. Finding a research question worth answering, and designing an experiment that tests it properly, also assumes a good deal of prior knowledge that is rarely written down anywhere. The four things described below are our response to that.

Nothing costs anything to use, and nobody on the team is paid.

The figures

Figure	What it was counted from
310 members	Completed entries on our membership form.
165 posts	Everything members have posted to the forum since we started, including items now archived or unlisted.
2,800 readers a week	Unique visitors to the forum and journal in Vercel Analytics, averaged over eight weeks.
49 papers	Papers currently listed in the journal, across twelve research categories.
23 guides	Guides hosted as PDFs on the resources page, twenty of which we wrote ourselves.
6 workshops	AI literacy sessions delivered, in person and over video.
140 attendees	Sign-in sheets from each session.

The journal

We maintain an unofficial journal for students to submit their own research, or other papers they have found worth reading. There are currently forty-nine papers listed, across twelve categories, of which applied machine learning, interpretability and natural language processing are the largest. All of them are free to read, and none of the authors paid anything to publish. Work by high school and student authors is listed first.

A student reviewer reads each submission against a published rubric, checking that the work is the author's own, that the method is described well enough for someone else to follow, and that the conclusions match the results. That is a careful read by a student, not formal

academic peer review, and both the website and the rubric say so. The rubric is available at sairc.vercel.app/SAIRC-Submission-Criteria.pdf.

The forum and the guides

The forum has carried 165 posts from members, read by roughly 2,800 readers a week. These consist of anonymously submitted work written by students, together with pieces by other authors that students have suggested. It is the most-read part of the site.

The resources section holds twenty-three guides, twenty of which we wrote. They cover the stages of a research project, including finding a research question, accessing free GPU compute, keeping a logbook, designing experiments and approaching professors by email. They are also the most common route by which people find the site through search.

The workshops

We run free workshops, taught by high school students, that show senior citizens how to use AI chatbots and how to recognise AI-based scams. Sessions last forty-five minutes and run either in person or over video. By the end, attendees have a working chatbot on their own device, some sense of what to use it for, and an idea of how the scams aimed at them operate.

Two findings prompted the programme. Pew Research Center reports that 77 per cent of Americans aged 65 and over do not use AI chatbots at all, against 34 per cent of adults under 30. The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center recorded \$7.7 billion lost to online fraud by Americans aged 60 and over in 2025, and 40 per cent of the AI-enabled fraud losses it recorded came from that same age group. People who have never used the technology are less well placed to recognise it being used against them, and a convincing voice clone requires only about ten seconds of audio taken from a social media video.

Six sessions have run so far, with 140 people attending between them. The curriculum is published in full at sairc.vercel.app for anyone who would like to run something similar.

Surveys

Two surveys are in use. The first asks middle school, high school and undergraduate instructors what they make of AI in classrooms, how much they use it themselves, and what they wish someone had explained to them earlier. It is anonymous and open now.

The second is given only to people who have attended a workshop. It tells us how the session went and how familiar attendees were with AI beforehand, and the results will be published once there are enough of them.

Limitations

A few of the figures above are softer than others, and it is worth saying which.

- Membership counts signups rather than activity, and a substantial share of the 310 have never posted.
- The site does not display everything we have published. Around sixty items across the forum and the journal are archived or otherwise unlisted, which is why the totals above run ahead of what the live pages show.
- Reader figures come from Vercel Analytics and are not filtered for our own traffic, so the outside readership is somewhat lower than 2,800.

- We have no follow-up data on whether workshop attendees still use what we showed them a month later. We would like to collect it and have not yet.
- Every figure here is compiled from our own records.

What is next

More workshops, a follow-up survey on whether what we teach in them holds up over time, and a standing call for student reviewers so the submission queue keeps moving through exam season. Anyone who would like to help with any of that is welcome to write to us.

Student AI Research Collective · sairc.support@gmail.com · sairc.vercel.app
Figures in this report were checked in September 2026.