

Why This Exercise Works

The LEGO constraint is essential. Six pieces are not enough to build a naturalistic duck. It forces abstraction, and abstraction is where values, culture, and cognitive shortcuts become visible.

What participants discover is that their 'duck' is shaped by:

- ▶ The ducks they have encountered in their lives
- ▶ Which features they consider essential versus optional
- ▶ How do they interpret ambiguity when information is incomplete
- ▶ What they believe the question is really asking

Core Insight

This is exactly what happens when an AI model is trained on data. It doesn't learn 'duck.' It learns a weighted statistical approximation of all the ducks, and all the duck-labellers, in its training set. The biases in the room become the biases in the model.