

The Always / Never Worksheet

A DIY pass at the absolutes in your AI policy or pledge · Sociable Systems

Most AI policies break at their absolutes: a hostile reader needs only one counterexample to void an “always” or a “never.” List your absolute statements below, answer the four questions on each, and write the verdict. Then rewrite the weak ones before someone outside the building does the finding for you.

Your always / never statement	Counter-example?	Verifier?	Remedy ?	Your control?	Verdict

The four questions

1. **Counter-example?** Can you name a real case where it would not hold? A yes means the absolute is already false as written.
2. **Verifier?** Is there a named person or control that would catch a breach? No verifier, no promise.
3. **Remedy?** Is there a consequence when it breaks, or just a broken promise?
4. **Your control?** Is it fully in your gift, or does it ride on a vendor or model you do not run?

Scoring the verdict

Defensible — no weak answers. Keep it, and protect the wording through every revision.

Hedge it — one or two weak answers. Rewrite from absolute to default-plus-exception: “By default X, except in these named cases,” and state who verifies it and what the remedy is.

Cut or rewrite — three or more, or a counter-example exists. Cut the absolute, or rebuild it around the control that enforces it.

The DIY pass finds the absolutes you can see. The Always/Never Audit reads your full document the way six hostile seats would, drafts the rewrites, and finds the nevers one reorganisation away from gone. sociable.systems/advisory/always-never-audit