

WEEK 2: KEY TAKEAWAYS

The 10 Takeaways from Lab Week

01. "WHAT AM I MISSING?"

"What am I missing?" is your most powerful prompt — ask it when you need an objective voice. Claude is full of ideas. Only ask if you have a minute to walk through what it says.

02. PAIR IT WITH "JUST GIVE ME THREE"

Pair "What am I missing?" with "Just give me three options" to keep Claude manageable. Don't let the goblins overwhelm you with a twelve-point list.

03. TWO DOCUMENTS, EVERY PROJECT

Every project needs TWO documents: Specs + Must-Dos, and a Changelog. The specs doc is your anchor. The changelog is your artificial memory. Tell Claude to set them up.

04. GOLDFISH MEMORY

Claude has the memory of a goldfish — documentation IS its memory. Create an artificial memory for Claude because it doesn't come with one. And you can dictate exactly what's in it.

05. REGRESSION TESTING

Regression testing: when you add something new, test ALL the old must-dos too. This prevents the classic problem of fixing something but breaking something else.

06. CLAUDE SKILLS

Claude Skills turn repetitive multi-step tasks into one-command goblin agents. If you find yourself doing the same steps over and over, build a skill. You will save time.

07. UNIQUE TRIGGER PHRASES

Use unique trigger phrases (song lyrics, movie quotes) so you don't accidentally fire skills. Say the key word or key phrase and it automatically activates.

08. CHAT, COWORK, CODE

Chat = creative brain. Code = execution brain. Cowork = the bridge between them. Dispatch is powerful but credit-hungry — use sparingly, still in beta.

09. CLAUDE.MD IS A LIVING DOCUMENT

Your Claude.md is a living document — add to it, trim it, let it evolve. It will start to understand you. Occasionally go back and say, "Make this more concise without leaving out details."

10. ASK ANY DAMN THING

Claude will never say your idea is stupid. Ask any damn thing you want. People will judge, but Claude won't. Use that privacy to dream big.

HOMEWORK FOR WEEK 3

- If you haven't built your Claude.md yet, DO IT
- Ask Claude "What am I missing?" on something you're working on

- Create a specs document for your widget project (what it does + must-dos)
- Bring your widget to class — working or broken, we want to see it