CAREER PROFILE: NEXT LEVEL TECH

AI Data Annotator

An AI Data Annotator labels and organizes images, videos, text, and audio to help train artificial intelligence (AI) systems. Their work teaches AI to recognize objects, understand language, identify patterns, and make accurate predictions. They support the development of AI-powered technologies such as self-driving cars, virtual assistants, and medical imaging tools.

School to Career Pathway

- Take courses in computer science, digital literacy, artificial intelligence, or data analysis.
- A high school diploma is required; an associate or bachelor's degree is preferred.
- Employers typically provide on-the-job training in annotation tools and project guidelines.

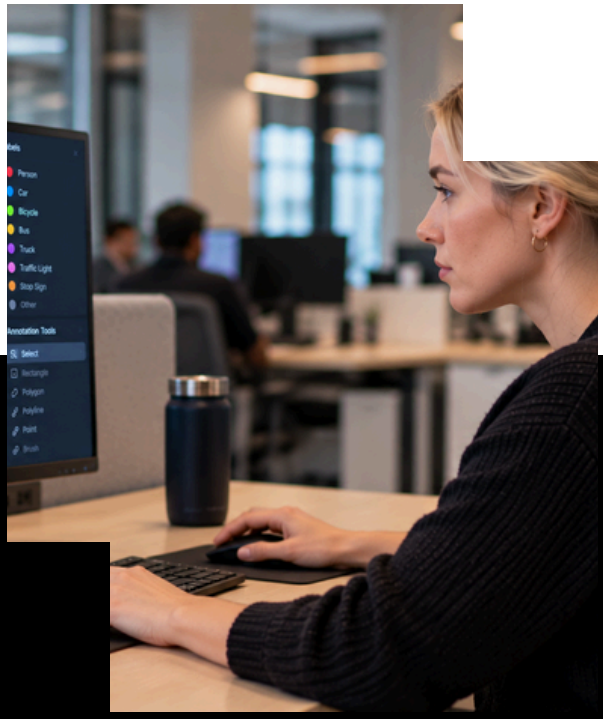
Durable Skills

As an AI data annotator, you need:

- Attention to detail to examine data, spot small differences, and create accurate labels for AI training.
- Critical thinking to analyze information and make consistent decisions when data is unclear or complex.
- Adaptability to learn new annotation tools, technologies, and guidelines as AI systems evolve.
- Time management to complete annotation tasks accurately, meet deadlines, and maintain high-quality work.

Paycheck Peek

$30.00 hourly, $62,000 annual
*Note that annual wages vary by location (state, city, or work setting)



Core Duties

Label Data
Identify and tag objects, words, sounds, and actions in images, videos, text, and audio to help artificial intelligence (AI) systems learn patterns.

Review Data for Accuracy
Check labels for errors, missing details, and consistency to ensure they meet project quality standards.

Organize Training Data
Sort, categorize, and prepare labeled datasets for training, testing, and improving AI models.

Follow Annotation Guidelines
Apply detailed labeling instructions consistently across tasks so training data remains accurate, complete, and reliable.

Collaborate with AI Teams
Work with data scientists, machine learning engineers, and project managers to resolve unclear labels, address feedback, and improve overall data quality.



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AI Data Annotator

Could This Be Your Thing?

- Are you interested in new technology and artificial intelligence (AI), even if coding or programming isn't your thing?
- Do you enjoy spotting patterns, noticing small details, or finding mistakes others might miss?
- Do you like keeping your schoolwork, folders, or digital files organized and making sure everything is in the right place?
- Are you comfortable following detailed instructions, working independently, and checking your work for accuracy?

Explore Similar Career Pathways

- Machine Learning Engineer
- Data Analyst

Dig Deeper Here

Find out more about all careers at: US Bureau of Labor Statistics Student's Desk

Find out more about AI Careers at:

- A-Z of Careers in AI
- Careers in AI Video Series for Middle School Students
- AI at NASA: Unlocking the Future of Exploration

Find out more about the careers above:

- O*NET Online: Machine Learning Engineer
- LabXchange: Data Analyst
- O*NET Online: Database Architect

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