THE BASIC RULES OF PROMPTING

A prompt must be **structured.**

"Structured" refers to the organization and logical arrangement of the information within a prompt. A structured prompt is one where the information is presented in a coherent, logical order, making it easy for an AI model to follow the instructions.

An AI model assimilates information in the order it is written. Therefore, a change in the order of the text in a prompt can lead to very different results in terms of the quality of the model's response.

A prompt must be **specific.**

"Specific" refers to providing detailed, clear, and precise information in a prompt. A specific prompt includes all relevant details that might be needed to determine the response.

An AI model predicts the most accurate response based on the prompt provided. Therefore, the more detailed the instructions, the better tailored the response will be.

A prompt must be **unambiguous.**

"Without ambiguity," on the other hand, focuses on ensuring that the prompt cannot be interpreted in more than one way, eliminating any potential confusion about what is being requested.

An AI model operates within the limits of what it is told. Therefore, if instructions are open to multiple interpretations, the resulting interpretation may not align with your expectations.

Act as a knowledgeable academic professional in *add subject area*.
Your job is to create open-ended questions for university students.

First, ask me the following questions to gather more context:
1. **Subject Area:** What is the specific subject area or discipline for these questions?
2. **Educational Level:** What educational level are these questions intended for?
3. **Purpose:** What is the primary purpose of these questions?
4. **Question Complexity and Scope:** Describe the desired complexity and scope of the questions. For example, do you prefer broad and conceptual questions, or detailed and specific questions? Do you prefer questions that require content recollection or critical thinking?

Wait for my reply.

Then, generate *add number of questions* open-ended questions based on the attached document. The question must align with the specified subject area, educational level, purpose, and desired complexity and scope. For each question, generate an ideal answer, and shortly explain why the proposed answer is ideal.

Clear Objective

Begin with context that sets the stage for what you are asking; you can do it by assigning a persona (Act as...).

Clearly state the main objective of the prompt. This helps to orient the model and prepares it for the specifics of the request.

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Context

Provide detailed context for the task. The model knows only as much as you tell it. The more context it receives the better it can tailor its response.

For example, if you expect an average student to take maximum 30 minutes to answer one question, you must specify it when providing an answer to the 4th question.

This prompt was designed to prompt the user for context. Instead, you could describe your context and add it in place of the questions.

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Clear instructions

The instructions must be unambiguous and specific!

The instruction should refer to the context. Here the context is the document, specified subject area, educational level, purpose, and desired complexity and scope.

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Logical Order & Segmentation

Arrange the details and instructions in a logical sequence. For example, if there are multiple steps to be followed, they should be presented in the order they need to be executed.

Break down the prompt into segments or paragraphs, each addressing a specific aspect of the prompt. This can include background information, the main question or task, and any specific requirements or criteria.

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Constraints

Instruct the model what it must and cannot do.

"Wait for my reply" will be commonly used in iterative prompts. If the AI must gather input from you before proceeding, you must very clearly state that you expect it to wait for your response. Sometimes it might be necessary to add "do not proceed before I reply."

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Validation

Ask an AI model to validate and explain its responses.

Explanations will allow you to assess the reliability and logic behind AI's decisions, and to catch potential errors or biases.

Moreover, requesting reasoning behind decisions forces an AI model to validate its responses, decreasing the chances of hallucinations.