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Large Language Model Prompting Guide

A Comprehensive Field Manual for
Crafting Effective Prompts

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Preface

Prompting isn't magic. It's communication.

A large language model can only return clarity if you give it clarity. The difference between a mediocre response and an exceptional one often comes down to how well you structured your prompt. This guide walks you through eight proven prompting methodologies, giving you the "why," the "how," and concrete examples you can adapt to your specific needs.

Whether you're an educator designing lesson materials, a business owner optimizing operations, a consultant solving complex problems, a developer building AI-powered applications, or a researcher analyzing data, these frameworks will help you communicate more effectively with AI systems.

This guide is brought to you by **Harvest Kernel**, where we make AI accessible through the SeedStacking methodology—breaking down complex AI tasks into manageable, stackable steps.

How to Use This Guide:

Each prompting method includes:
• Clear explanation of the framework structure
• Specific use cases across multiple professional domains
• Real-world examples you can adapt immediately
• Tips for maximizing effectiveness

Think of these eight methods as tools in a workshop. The magic isn't in memorizing them all—it's in picking the right one based on the intent of your task and the clarity you need in the response.

Understanding LLM Prompting

What Makes a Good Prompt?

Effective prompting is about precision, context, and structure. Large language models respond best when they understand:

1. Their Role - Who should they be? An expert analyst? A patient teacher? A creative writer?

2. The Audience - Who will consume this output? Technical experts? Complete beginners? Business executives?

3. The Context - What's the situation? What background information matters? What constraints exist?

4. The Desired Output - What format? How long? What style? What specific elements must be included?

The Eight Frameworks

This guide presents eight distinct frameworks, each optimized for different situations. These frameworks embody the **SeedStacking methodology** from Harvest Kernel—breaking complex prompting strategies into manageable, stackable components you can master one at a time.

• **RACE** - Structured and predictable for professional communication
• **CLOSET** - Highly customizable for precise specifications
• **PEAC** - Problem-solving and troubleshooting
• **TAP** - Quick and efficient for simple tasks
• **SPIN** - Persuasive and strategic communication
• **FOCUS** - Format-driven with strict constraints
• **CLEAR** - Clarity-focused explanations
• **STORY** - Narrative and scenario-based prompting

Master these frameworks, and you'll communicate with AI systems as effectively as you would with a skilled colleague.

1. RACE Method

Role • Audience • Context • Execution

What It Is

The RACE method is a structured prompting framework that tells the model who to be, who it's talking to, what the situation is, and how the answer should be delivered. It's clean, predictable, and wildly effective for professional communications and analytical tasks.

Think of RACE as your go-to framework when you need consistent, professional output that meets specific standards. It excels at creating clear boundaries and expectations.

When to Use RACE

• Teaching and educational content creation
• Professional business communication
• Technical writing and documentation
• Analysis and reporting
• When you need predictable, structured responses
• Situations requiring role-specific expertise

Framework Structure

Role: Define who the AI should act as (expert, teacher, analyst, etc.)
Audience: Specify who will receive this information
Context: Provide the situation, background, or scenario
Execution: Describe how the response should be formatted or delivered

Example 1: Educational Context

```
Role: Act as a supply chain analyst with 10 years of experience. Audience:
College students new to logistics management. Context: They are learning about
demand forecasting methods for their midterm exam. Execution: Explain the top
three forecasting methods (qualitative, time series, causal) with a practical
example for each. Use simple language and include one real-world business
application per method. Format as three distinct sections, approximately 150
words each.
```

Example 2: Business Strategy

```
Role: Act as a business strategy consultant specializing in market entry.
Audience: C-suite executives with limited time. Context: Company is considering
expanding into the European market but has no international experience.
Execution: Provide a concise analysis of the top 3 critical factors to consider
before expansion. Include one risk and one opportunity for each factor. Format
as an executive summary with bullet points, maximum 300 words total.
```

Example 3: Software Development

```
Role: Act as a senior Python developer with expertise in API design. Audience:
Junior developers on your team who are learning RESTful API principles.
Context: The team needs to build a customer data API that handles CRUD
operations securely. Execution: Explain the five essential principles of
RESTful API design with code examples. Use Python Flask framework. Include
comments explaining each principle. Format as a tutorial with progressive
difficulty.
```

Pro Tips for RACE

Be specific about the role: Instead of "expert," try "certified public accountant with tax specialization" or "emergency room nurse with pediatric experience."

Define the audience's knowledge level: "Complete beginners" yields different results than "professionals with 5 years experience."

Provide measurable execution criteria: Word counts, number of examples, specific format requirements all improve consistency.

2. CLOSET Framework

Context • Length • Objective • Style • Examples • Tone

What It Is

CLOSET is a deeply customizable prompting framework that helps you shape responses with precision. It's particularly powerful when you need exact control over format, voice, length, and stylistic elements. This framework excels at content creation where brand voice, tone, and specific formatting matter.

When to Use CLOSET

• Training modules and course content
• Marketing copy and brand communications
• Website content and blog posts
• Tutorials and how-to guides
• Any situation requiring precise tone and style control
• Content that must match existing brand guidelines

Framework Structure

Context: The situation, background, or purpose
Length: Specific word count or approximate length
Objective: What you want to achieve with this content
Style: Writing style (conversational, academic, technical, etc.)
Examples: Request specific types of examples or analogies
Tone: The emotional quality (encouraging, authoritative, friendly, etc.)

Example 1: Training Content

```
Context: Creating an employee training module on Agile project management for a
software company transitioning from waterfall methodology. Length: 800-1000
words. Objective: Explain what Agile is, why it benefits software development,
and how it differs from waterfall approach. Style: Professional but accessible,
avoiding jargon where possible. Examples: Include two real-world scenarios
comparing Agile vs. waterfall outcomes. Tone: Encouraging and forward-thinking,
emphasizing growth and adaptation.
```

Example 2: Marketing Content

```
Context: Writing website copy for a sustainable fashion brand targeting
millennials and Gen Z consumers. Length: 300-400 words for homepage hero
section. Objective: Communicate brand values of sustainability, quality, and
ethical production while driving conversions. Style: Conversational, authentic,
avoiding corporate-speak. Examples: Reference specific sustainable practices
(organic cotton, fair trade, carbon neutral shipping). Tone: Passionate but not
preachy, empowering and inclusive.
```

Example 3: Educational Tutorial

```
Context: Creating a beginner's guide to understanding blockchain technology for
a financial literacy website. Length: 600-700 words. Objective: Demystify
blockchain and explain its practical applications beyond cryptocurrency. Style:
Simple and visual, using everyday analogies. Examples: Include one relatable
analogy (like a shared Google Doc) and two practical applications (supply chain
tracking, medical records). Tone: Patient, educational, building confidence.
```

Pro Tips for CLOSET

Be precise with length: Give ranges (400-500 words) rather than exact numbers for more natural output.

Match style to audience: Technical audiences can handle jargon; general audiences cannot.

Request specific example types: "One historical example and one current example" provides better variety than "provide examples."

Tone matters more than you think: The difference between "professional" and "encouraging" significantly impacts reader response.

3. PEAC Prompting

Problem • Explanation • Alternatives • Conclusion

What It Is

PEAC is a problem-solving framework designed for troubleshooting, diagnosis, and analytical scenarios. It structures prompts around identifying issues, understanding root causes, exploring solutions, and reaching actionable conclusions. This method shines in operations management, consulting, and technical troubleshooting.

When to Use PEAC

• Troubleshooting technical or operational issues
• Root cause analysis
• Strategic decision-making
• Consulting and advisory work
• Process improvement initiatives
• When you need to evaluate multiple solutions

Framework Structure

Problem: Clearly define the issue or challenge
Explanation: Request analysis of root causes or contributing factors
Alternatives: Ask for multiple viable solutions or approaches
Conclusion: Request a recommended solution with justification

Example 1: Operations Management

```
Problem: A distribution warehouse consistently runs out of top-selling SKUs
despite having inventory management software, resulting in delayed customer
shipments and lost sales. Explanation: Describe the top 4 possible root causes
for this stockout pattern. Consider demand forecasting, safety stock levels,
lead times, and ordering processes. Alternatives: Provide three distinct
corrective action plans, each addressing different root causes. Include
implementation timeframes and resource requirements. Conclusion: Recommend the
most practical solution for a mid-sized business with limited IT budget.
Justify your recommendation with expected ROI within 6 months.
```

Example 2: Software Development

```
Problem: A web application experiences significant performance degradation during peak usage hours (2-4 PM daily), with page load times increasing from 1 second to 8-10 seconds. Explanation: Analyze potential causes including database queries, server capacity, caching strategy, and third-party API dependencies. Explain how each could contribute to the slowdown. Alternatives: Present three solution approaches: infrastructure scaling, code optimization, or architectural redesign. Include pros, cons, and implementation complexity for each. Conclusion: Recommend the optimal solution for a startup with a $50K budget and 2-month timeline. Explain the rationale and expected performance improvement.
```

Example 3: Business Consulting

```
Problem: A retail chain's customer satisfaction scores dropped 15% over the past quarter despite no changes in pricing or product quality. Explanation: Examine potential factors including employee turnover, training programs, store conditions, checkout efficiency, and customer service protocols. Identify the most likely contributors. Alternatives: Propose three improvement strategies focusing on different aspects: staff development, operational efficiency, or customer experience enhancement. Include estimated costs and timelines. Conclusion: Recommend the strategy with the highest probability of improving satisfaction scores within 90 days. Support your recommendation with industry benchmarks.
```

Pro Tips for PEAC

Define problems with data: Include specific metrics, timeframes, and measurable impacts when possible.

Request specific numbers of alternatives: "At least three" ensures comprehensive analysis.

Add constraints to conclusions: Budget limits, timeline requirements, and resource availability guide practical recommendations.

Ask for prioritization criteria: Request recommendations based on ROI, implementation speed, or risk mitigation.

4. TAP Method

Task • Audience • Parameters

What It Is

TAP is the streamlined workhorse of prompting frameworks. When you don't need bells and whistles but require clear direction, TAP delivers. It's fast, simple, and eliminates unnecessary complexity while still providing structure. Think of TAP as your rapid-fire tool for everyday tasks that don't require extensive setup.

When to Use TAP

• Quick summaries and condensed information
• Short-form content creation
• Rapid iterations and testing
• Simple translations or reformatting
• When time efficiency is critical
• Straightforward tasks with clear outcomes

Framework Structure

Task: What needs to be done (summarize, create, analyze, translate, etc.)
Audience: Who will use or consume this output
Parameters: Key constraints (length, style, format, special requirements)

Example 1: Academic Summary

```
Task: Summarize the key findings from a research article about inventory
optimization in e-commerce. Audience: Second-year supply chain management
students. Parameters: Maximum 200 words. Use simple language avoiding academic
jargon. Include the three most important takeaways.
```

Example 2: Email Draft

```
Task: Draft a professional email declining a vendor proposal. Audience: Senior
purchasing manager at an established supplier. Parameters: Under 150 words.
Maintain positive relationship. Offer to reconsider if terms improve.
Professional but warm tone.
```

Example 3: Social Media Content

```
Task: Create three LinkedIn post variations announcing a company webinar on AI in education. Audience: K-12 teachers and higher education faculty. Parameters: Each post 100-150 words. Include call-to-action with registration link placeholder. Emphasize practical applications. Conversational tone.
```

Example 4: Code Documentation

```
Task: Write documentation for a Python function that validates email addresses. Audience: Junior developers who will maintain this code. Parameters: Include function description, parameter explanations, return value, and one usage example. Follow Google docstring format.
```

Pro Tips for TAP

Keep tasks action-oriented: Use verbs: summarize, create, analyze, translate, explain.

Be specific about audience needs: "Beginners" vs. "intermediate users" vs. "experts" dramatically changes output complexity.

Set clear parameters early: Length limits, format requirements, and style preferences prevent revision cycles.

Use TAP for iteration: Its simplicity makes it perfect for testing different approaches quickly.

5. SPIN Technique

Situation • Problem • Implication • Need

What It Is

SPIN originated as a sales methodology but translates brilliantly into a prompting framework for persuasive communication and strategic analysis. It's designed to build compelling narratives by establishing context, identifying challenges, exploring consequences, and defining requirements. Use SPIN when you need to influence decisions or create persuasive content.

When to Use SPIN

• Persuasive writing and proposals
• Business case development
• Strategic planning and forecasting
• Stakeholder analysis
• Risk assessment and mitigation planning
• Change management communications

Framework Structure

Situation: Establish the current state or context
Problem: Identify the challenge or gap
Implication: Explore consequences of not addressing the problem
Need: Define what must change or be implemented

Example 1: Business Expansion

```
Situation: A regional manufacturing company has saturated its local market and faces declining year-over-year growth for the first time in a decade. Problem: Current distribution infrastructure cannot support expansion beyond a 200-mile radius, and competitors are entering the market with national distribution networks. Implication: Explain the potential consequences over the next 18 months if the company maintains current operations. Include market share loss, revenue impact, and competitive positioning. Use industry data where applicable. Need: Describe the operational capabilities and infrastructure investments required to expand successfully. Prioritize the top three critical needs.
```

Example 2: Technology Adoption

```
Situation: A school district relies on paper-based student records and manual administrative processes, while neighboring districts have implemented digital learning management systems. Problem: Teachers spend an average of 8 hours per week on administrative tasks that could be automated. Student data is fragmented across multiple filing systems. Implication: Analyze the long-term impact on teacher retention, student outcomes, and administrative efficiency if current systems remain unchanged. Project costs over 5 years. Need: Define the technical infrastructure, training programs, and change management support required for successful digital transformation. Include a phased implementation approach.
```

Example 3: Sustainability Initiative

```
Situation: A retail company currently uses single-use plastic packaging for all products, while competitors are shifting to sustainable materials. Problem: Consumer preference data shows 67% of target demographic prefers brands with sustainable packaging. Current vendor contracts lock in plastic packaging for 18 more months. Implication: Examine the business consequences of maintaining current packaging through 2025. Consider brand perception, market positioning, regulatory risks, and customer acquisition costs. Need: Outline the operational changes, vendor relationships, and supply chain modifications needed to transition to sustainable packaging. Include cost-benefit analysis.
```

Pro Tips for SPIN

Make situations concrete: Include specific data, timeframes, and measurable conditions.

Frame problems as gaps: Focus on the distance between current state and desired state.

Quantify implications: Request specific metrics, costs, or timeline impacts rather than general consequences.

Prioritize needs: Ask for ranked or tiered needs to enable phased implementation planning.

6. FOCUS Model

Format • Objective • Constraints • Uniqueness • Style

What It Is

FOCUS is a format-first prompting framework that prioritizes structure and output specifications. It's perfect when you need content that fits specific templates, follows strict formatting rules, or must integrate into existing systems. FOCUS guards against bloated responses by establishing clear boundaries from the start.

When to Use FOCUS

• Creating structured deliverables (charts, tables, templates)
• Report generation with specific layouts
• Visual content planning
• PDF or slide deck creation
• Content that must fit predefined structures
• When format compliance is non-negotiable

Framework Structure

Format: Specify exact output structure (table, list, chart, report, etc.)
Objective: Define what you want to achieve or communicate
Constraints: Set hard limits (word count, number of items, data types)
Uniqueness: Request distinctive elements that set content apart
Style: Define the voice and presentation approach

Example 1: Comparison Table

```
Format: Create a three-column comparison table in markdown format. Objective: Compare economic order quantity (EOQ), just-in-time (JIT), and materials requirement planning (MRP) inventory management systems. Constraints: Maximum 150 words per column. Include exactly 5 comparison criteria: implementation cost, inventory levels, supplier relationships, demand variability handling, and best use cases. Uniqueness: Add one memorable analogy for each system that a non-expert would understand. Style: Clear, academic, but accessible to business students.
```

Example 2: Executive Dashboard

```
Format: Design a one-page executive dashboard layout with 4 quadrants.
Objective: Provide monthly operational KPI overview for manufacturing plant
manager. Constraints: Each quadrant contains one metric category: production
efficiency, quality control, safety incidents, and inventory turnover. Include
2-3 specific KPIs per quadrant with target ranges. Uniqueness: Add a "red flag"
indicator system showing when immediate attention is required. Style:
Data-focused, visual, scannable in under 60 seconds.
```

Example 3: Course Outline

```
Format: Create a 12-week course outline in hierarchical list format. Objective:
Structure an undergraduate course on artificial intelligence ethics.
Constraints: Exactly 12 weeks. Each week includes: topic title, 3 learning
objectives, 1 reading assignment, 1 discussion question, and 1 practical
exercise. Total outline should not exceed 2000 words. Uniqueness: Incorporate
one current real-world AI ethics case study per month (weeks 4, 8, 12). Style:
Academic but engaging, emphasizing critical thinking and practical application.
```

Pro Tips for FOCUS

Specify exact format requirements: "Three-column table" beats "comparison table." "Bullet list with headers" beats "organized list."

Use numerical constraints: "Exactly 5 items" prevents over-generation better than "around 5 items."

Define uniqueness explicitly: Request specific distinctive elements rather than general "make it unique."

Front-load format requirements: When format is non-negotiable, state it first to frame the entire response.

7. CLEAR Framework

Context • Length • Examples • Audience • Response Type

What It Is

CLEAR is a clarity-driven framework that forces focus on who the output serves and how it should appear. It excels at creating explanatory content, educational materials, and informational resources where understanding is the primary goal. Think of CLEAR when your priority is making complex information accessible.

When to Use CLEAR

• Explanations of complex concepts
• Onboarding materials and documentation
• Historical or conceptual content
• Educational resources and study guides
• Technical documentation for non-technical audiences
• When clarity and comprehension are paramount

Framework Structure

Context: The topic, subject, or concept being explained
Length: Target word count or relative length
Examples: Specific types and quantity of examples needed
Audience: Who needs to understand this and their knowledge level
Response Type: Format of the explanation (overview, guide, tutorial, etc.)

Example 1: Technical Concept

```
Context: The Toyota Production System and its revolutionary impact on
manufacturing. Length: 500-600 words. Examples: Include three specific TPS
innovations (kanban system, jidoka, kaizen) with brief explanations of how each
works in practice. Audience: New manufacturing employees with no prior lean
manufacturing knowledge. Response Type: Informational overview that builds
foundational understanding without overwhelming detail.
```

Example 2: Research Methodology

```
Context: Qualitative vs. quantitative research methods in social sciences.
Length: 400-500 words. Examples: Provide one detailed example of each
methodology in action, preferably from education or psychology research.
Audience: Undergraduate students planning their first research project.
Response Type: Comparative guide that helps students choose appropriate
methodology for their research questions.
```

Example 3: Business Process

```
Context: How modern supply chains use blockchain technology for transparency
and traceability. Length: 600-700 words. Examples: Include two real-world
applications: one in food safety (farm to table) and one in pharmaceutical
supply chains. Show the specific problems blockchain solves in each case.
Audience: Business executives considering blockchain adoption but with limited
technical knowledge. Response Type: Executive briefing that balances technical
accuracy with accessibility.
```

Example 4: Historical Context

```
Context: The evolution of quality management from inspection-based to
prevention-based systems. Length: 700-800 words. Examples: Highlight three key
milestones: Shewhart's control charts (1920s), Deming's quality principles
(1950s), and Six Sigma (1980s). Explain the paradigm shift each represented.
Audience: Quality management professionals pursuing certification. Response
Type: Historical analysis that draws connections between past developments and
current practices.
```

Pro Tips for CLEAR

Tailor examples to audience: Use familiar contexts and relatable scenarios that connect to audience experience.

Specify example diversity: Request "one historical and one current example" or "one large company and one small business example."

Match response type to learning goal: "Overview" for breadth, "deep dive" for depth, "tutorial" for how-to knowledge.

Consider audience knowledge explicitly: "Complete beginners" vs. "intermediate practitioners" dramatically affects explanation depth.

8. STORY Model

Situation • Task • Obstacles • Resolution • Your Input

What It Is

STORY is a narrative-based prompting framework ideal for creating scenarios, case studies, training simulations, and role-play exercises. It structures prompts around story elements that engage learners and create memorable learning experiences. STORY brings concepts to life through realistic situations and challenges.

When to Use STORY

• Case study development
• Training simulations and role-plays
• Scenario-based learning
• Interactive educational content
• Problem-solving exercises
• When you need engagement through narrative

Framework Structure

Situation: Set the scene and establish context
Task: Define what must be accomplished or decided
Obstacles: Introduce challenges, constraints, or complications
Resolution: Request potential solutions or outcomes
Your Input: Specify how learners should engage (analyze, choose, create, etc.)

Example 1: Supply Chain Case Study

Situation: MegaMart, a national retailer, suddenly experiences a 300% spike in online orders during Black Friday week. Their distribution centers were designed for steady state operations averaging 50,000 orders daily. Task: The VP of Operations must ensure all orders ship within the promised 2-day window to avoid penalties and protect customer satisfaction scores. Obstacles: Warehouse staff is already at maximum hours. Temporary labor takes 3 days to onboard. Two key distribution centers are experiencing equipment failures. Competitor retailers are aggressively recruiting their trained staff. Resolution: Present three strategic approaches to handling this surge, each with different risk/reward profiles. Include immediate actions (24 hours), short-term solutions (1 week), and long-term improvements. Your Input: Have learners rank the three approaches based on feasibility, cost, and customer impact. Ask them to defend their top choice with specific reasoning.

Example 2: Software Development Scenario

Situation: A startup's mobile app is scheduled to launch in 3 weeks. During final testing, the QA team discovers a critical security vulnerability that could expose user payment information. Task: The engineering manager must decide whether to delay launch, implement a partial fix, or launch with enhanced monitoring systems. Obstacles: Marketing has already committed to launch date in partnerships worth $2M. A complete security fix requires 6-8 weeks of development. Competitors are launching similar products next month. Investors are expecting the launch date. Resolution: Create decision tree showing consequences of each choice with probability estimates for best-case, likely-case, and worst-case scenarios. Your Input: Ask learners to select a path and write a memo to the CEO explaining their decision and addressing stakeholder concerns.

Example 3: Educational Leadership

```
Situation: A high school principal faces declining student engagement and test scores. Teachers report that current curriculum feels disconnected from student interests and career aspirations. Task: Develop a plan to modernize curriculum while maintaining state standards compliance and managing resistance from traditionalist teachers and concerned parents. Obstacles: Limited professional development budget ($30K annually). Five veteran teachers threatening retirement if "too much changes." Parent advisory board worried about college preparation. State testing requirements unchanged. Resolution: Design a phased implementation approach spanning two academic years. Include pilot programs, teacher training, parent communication strategy, and success metrics. Your Input: Have participants create a stakeholder communication plan for the first semester addressing each group's specific concerns.
```

Pro Tips for STORY

Make situations realistic: Include authentic details, constraints, and stakeholder dynamics that learners will encounter.

Balance obstacles: Too easy creates no learning tension; too hard creates frustration. Include 2-4 meaningful constraints.

Provide resolution frameworks: Guide problem-solving without giving away answers. Suggest analytical approaches.

Create meaningful interaction: Requests like "choose and defend" or "rank and justify" engage deeper thinking than simple multiple choice.

Method Comparison Matrix

This matrix helps you quickly select the most appropriate prompting framework based on your specific needs, time constraints, and desired outcomes.

Method	Best For	Complexity	Time	Output Type
RACE	Professional communications, teaching, structured analysis	Medium	Medium	Structured, Role-specific
CLOSET	Brand content, precise formatting, training materials	High	High	Highly customized
PEAC	Problem-solving, troubleshooting, consulting	Medium	Medium	Analytical, Solutions-focused
TAP	Quick tasks, summaries, simple requests	Low	Low	Concise, Direct
SPIN	Persuasive writing, business cases, strategy	Medium	Medium	Persuasive, Consequence-driven
FOCUS	Structured deliverables, templates, reports	Medium	Medium	Format-specific, Bounded
CLEAR	Explanations, educational content, documentation	Low	Low	Clear, Accessible
STORY	Case studies, scenarios, training simulations	High	High	Narrative, Engaging

Quick Selection Guide

Use this decision tree to rapidly identify the best framework for your specific situation. Start at the top and follow the path that matches your needs.

If you need clarity and structure:

• Professional communication or teaching → **RACE**
• Precise brand voice and formatting → **CLOSET**
• Simple explanations → **CLEAR**

If you're solving problems or analyzing:

• Troubleshooting or root cause analysis → **PEAC**
• Strategic decision-making → **SPIN**
• Quick analysis → **TAP**

If you need specific formats:

• Strict templates or structured deliverables → **FOCUS**
• Quick summaries → **TAP**
• Detailed reports → **CLOSET**

If you're creating learning experiences:

• Engaging scenarios or case studies → **STORY**
• Educational content → **CLEAR** or **RACE**
• Training materials → **CLOSET**

Pro Tip: You can combine frameworks! Start with TAP to iterate quickly, then expand to RACE or CLOSET once you've refined the direction. Or use STORY for the scenario structure and PEAC for the problem-solving framework within it.

Best Practices for Effective Prompting

Universal Principles

These principles apply regardless of which framework you choose:

1. Be Specific, Not Vague
Replace "write something about marketing" with "create a 300-word blog post introduction explaining content marketing for small business owners."

2. Provide Context That Matters
Don't include irrelevant background. Focus on information that shapes the response you need.

3. Set Clear Constraints
Word counts, format requirements, and style guidelines prevent endless revisions.

4. Request Examples When Needed
"Include two real-world examples" produces more concrete output than "be practical."

5. Iterate and Refine
First attempts rarely perfect. Analyze responses, adjust your prompt, and try again.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Over-Constraining: Too many specific requirements can stifle quality. Find the balance between guidance and flexibility.

Under-Specifying Audience: "Write for everyone" often means clarity for no one. Pick a specific audience.

Ignoring Length Requirements: Without length guidance, you might get 100 words when you needed 1000, or vice versa.

Vague Success Criteria: Define what "good" looks like before you start.

Mixing Too Many Goals: One prompt should accomplish one primary objective. Break complex requests into multiple prompts.

Choosing the Right Framework

Ask yourself:

- What's my primary goal? (educate, persuade, solve, create)
- How much time do I have? (quick iteration vs. detailed development)
- Who's my audience? (experts, beginners, mixed)
- What format do I need? (flexible vs. strict structure)
- What's the complexity level? (simple vs. multifaceted)

Match your answers to the framework strengths outlined in this guide.

Conclusion

Effective prompting is a learnable skill, not an innate talent. Like any skill, it improves with practice, reflection, and systematic approach. The eight frameworks in this guide—RACE, CLOSET, PEAC, TAP, SPIN, FOCUS, CLEAR, and STORY—provide you with structured approaches for virtually any prompting scenario you'll encounter.

Your Next Steps:

1. Start with TAP
Begin with the simplest framework for quick wins and confidence building.

2. Identify Your Most Common Use Cases
What types of content do you create most frequently? Master the frameworks that serve those needs.

3. Practice Deliberately
Don't just use frameworks—analyze why certain prompts work better than others. Build your intuition.

4. Experiment with Combinations
Once comfortable with individual frameworks, try combining elements for complex tasks.

5. Share and Learn
Effective prompts are shareable knowledge. Build a library of successful prompts for your team or discipline.

Remember: The goal isn't to memorize eight frameworks—it's to develop an intuitive sense of how to structure communication with AI systems. These frameworks are training wheels. With practice, you'll naturally incorporate their principles without consciously thinking about which framework you're using.

Large language models are powerful tools, but they're only as effective as the prompts that guide them. Invest time in crafting clear, well-structured prompts, and you'll be rewarded with outputs that meet your exact needs.

Plant your ideas carefully. Cultivate your prompting skills deliberately. Harvest exceptional results consistently.

Continue Your AI Education Journey

This guide is just the beginning. At **Harvest Kernel**, we're dedicated to making AI accessible to everyone through the **SeedStacking methodology**—breaking complex AI concepts into manageable, stackable learning experiences.

Visit harvestkernel.com to access:
• Additional prompting resources and templates
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