

Teaching Students to Write Prompts for AI

AI tools can help provide personalized learning for a student *but only when directed to do so!*
How do we empower and teach our students to write effective prompt?

Start with a definition: A prompt is an interaction between the student and an AI tool. It is a question, statement, information, or even code providing to the AI tool to tell it what to do and how to respond.

Remind students that prompts can be written in conversational language and can be formatted as multi-step questions. If the user wants citations, ask for them. Be aware that some AI tools have word limitations for prompts.

Poorly crafted prompts are usually written quickly and are ambiguous without crucial details and context.

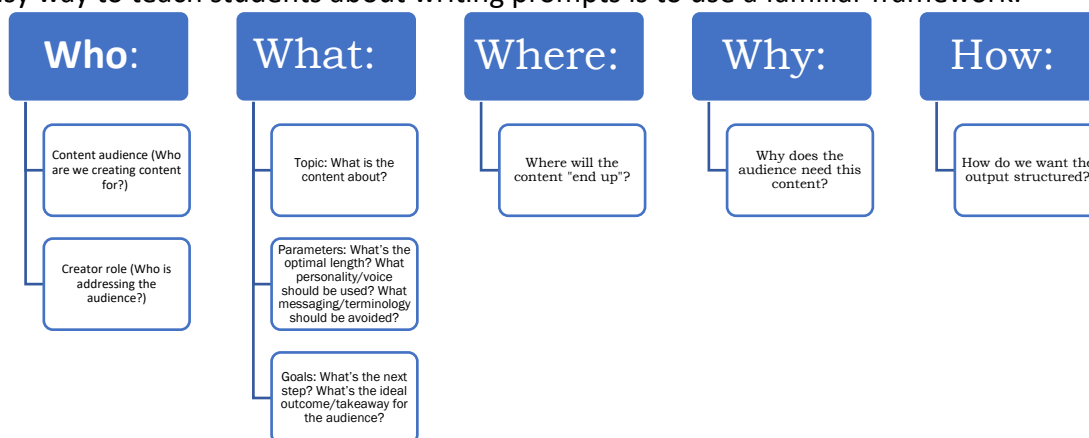
Bad prompt: Write a catchy title for my paper.

Better prompt: Give me three attention-getting titles for my engineering senior capstone design project paper focused on the creation of a carabiner that holds more weight based on shock impact calculations.

Bad prompt: Create a surreal painting of a flying car

Better prompt: Act as a Renaissance surrealist and create a surreal painting of a flying classic car

An easy way to teach students about writing prompts is to use a familiar framework:



The best advice we can give students is to be specific: Provide clear and direct instructions that include objectives, tone, target audience, type and length of output. Remind them that if they do not get the output they desire, try again!