

The 10 Prompt Patterns Card

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The ten patterns that cover 90% of executive AI use. Learn these once, use them everywhere.

- 1. The Role Set.** “You are a [role] with 20 years in [domain].” Focuses the answer in seniority and worldview. “You are a CFO who’s seen three recessions” beats “act smart.”
 - 2. The BLUF Flip.** “Answer with the conclusion first, then the three facts that support it.” Converts rambling into decisions.
 - 3. The Constraint Squeeze.** “Do it in 100 words / one page / three bullets.” Constraints do the editing for you. If the answer survives 100 words, it was worth saying.
 - 4. The Dumb Question Pass.** “Explain this like I’m smart but new to it. No jargon without a one-line definition.” The single highest-value pattern for executives — you learn the thing without the condescension or the confusion.
 - 5. The Red Team.** “Here’s my plan. Give me the three strongest arguments it fails.” Every plan needs an enemy before it meets reality.
 - 6. The Structure Handoff.** “Answer as: What it is / Why it matters / What I should do.” Predictable structure makes answers skimmable and comparable across sessions.
 - 7. The Example Anchor.** “Show me an example with real numbers before explaining the concept.” Abstractions dissolve; examples stick.
 - 8. The Draft-Then-Critique.** “Draft it, then list what you’d improve in a second pass — then do the second pass.” Two-pass output is nearly always better; you just have to ask.
 - 9. The Context Dump.** “Here’s everything relevant: [paste]. What am I missing?” Feeding real context beats clever prompting. The best prompt is often just... the actual information.
 - 10. The Turnaround.** “Ask me the three questions you need answered to do this well.” Reverses the flow — now it’s interviewing you, which is what a good analyst does anyway.
- Combos that work:** 1+2+3 for decisions. 5+8 for plans. 4+7 for learning. 9+10 when it really matters.
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