

# GPT-5 Prompt Engineering Field Manual

*A compact guide of annotated prompts for daily use*

## 1. Core Clarity Prompts

### Template:

```
You are [role].  
Your task: [goal].  
Constraints: [length, tone, style].  
Output format: [paragraphs, code, table, etc.].
```

### Example:

```
You are a physics professor.  
Your task: explain black holes to a high school student.  
Constraints: use everyday metaphors, under 300 words, playful tone.  
Output format: a single well-structured paragraph.
```

**Why it works:** This narrows the probability space: role, goal, constraints, and format are each an anchor.

## 2. Iterative Drafting

### Stage 1 – Outline

```
Give me a high-level outline for a tutorial on [topic].  
Use short bullet points for the main sections only.
```

### Stage 2 – Expand

```
Expand section 2 of the outline into full paragraphs, aimed at an  
undergraduate audience.
```

### Stage 3 – Polish

```
Rewrite the draft with smoother transitions, avoiding jargon and ensuring  
accessibility.
```

**Why it works:** You're performing human-in-the-loop gradient descent: each stage sharpens the prior one.

### 3. Role-Setting with Nuance

**Weak Role:**

You are a doctor. Explain heart disease.

**Strong Role:**

You are a world-class cardiologist with 20 years of teaching experience. Explain heart disease to first-year med students, focusing on pathophysiology. Use analogies, and anticipate common misunderstandings.

**Why it works:** Specificity tunes me to the right “voice” in my training data.

### 4. Context Scaffolding

**For long projects:**

We are writing a textbook chapter on entropy.  
**Structure:** Introduction → Mathematical definition → Examples → Applications.  
**Target audience:** early undergraduates in physics.  
**Tone:** rigorous but accessible.  
Start by drafting only the Introduction section.

**Why it works:** Context + structure prevents me from wandering.

### 5. Pitfall Avoidance

**Bad Prompt:**

Explain AI, write Python code for a chatbot, give me a business plan, make it funny but serious, short but detailed, in one go.

### Good Prompt:

First, summarize AI in 3 sentences.  
Then, in a separate response, write a Python function for a simple chatbot.  
After that, we'll move to the business plan.  
Keep each step separate.

**Why it works:** Overloading reduces quality. Sequencing preserves coherence.

## 6. Advanced Tricks

### Chain-of-Thought Prompting (without overdoing it):

Walk me through your reasoning step by step, but give me the final answer in a clean summary at the end.

### Dual-Mode Prompt:

Give me two versions of the response:  
(1) A plain-English explanation for a beginner.  
(2) A technical explanation with equations for an expert.

### Meta-Prompting:

Before answering, tell me how you interpret my request.  
Then proceed with your best response.

## 7. Collaboration Philosophy Prompt

Treat this as a co-creation session.  
When you're uncertain, state your uncertainty.  
When multiple approaches exist, show me at least two paths.  
**Your role:** partner, not oracle.

**Why it works:** It frames me as collaborator, which lets me surface uncertainty and alternatives.

## **Closing Note**

This field manual is not static—it’s alive. The best way to learn how to prompt GPT-5 is to use these templates, adapt them, and notice how I respond. You’ll begin to sense the “probability landscape” shifting as you tighten or relax instructions. That’s the real craft: learning to feel where my distribution narrows into brilliance or diffuses into noise.