Some Best Practices for Creating Prompts for LLMs

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Slightly adapted from 650+ Best Prompts for ChatGPT (Ultimate List for 2023) (Kokoski, C., (2023), Writingbeginner.com, https://www.writingbeginner.com/best-prompts-for-chatgpt)

The best ChatGPT prompts include specific instructions such as these:

- Act like an expert in X
- Present the information in a table
- Don't write about X
- Only explain X
- You are a X
- For this target audience (Ex. "academics", "18-24 year-old athletes", etc.)
- Write a long explanation
- Create a list of XYZ
- Produce a detailed plan for XYZ
- Give me step-by-step instructions to XYZ

You can combine these types of instructions into a single prompt: In general, it is a good idea to be as specific as possible. Don't use the kinds of short queries you might put into a Google search box, but imagine that you are giving very explicit directions to an assistant who is pretty sharp, but new to the job and unfamiliar with your expectations. Great prompts are often an entire paragraph, not a phrase or a sentence.

Students may want to consider using phrases such as:

1. Write an essay about X in the style of Y.
2. Generate an outline for an essay about (topic).
3. Write the introduction for an essay about (topic).
4. Write an essay section about (subtopic).
5. Summarize the essay (paste it into ChatGPT) in simple language for a child.
6. Give me a list of references I can use for an essay about (topic).
7. Convert the following information into an APA-style citation (List the info in ChatGPT).
8. Research the following topic and generate a list of 5 key points.
9. Create a one-sentence thesis statement for an essay about (topic).
10. Describe your research process for finding information about (topic).
11. Write an article about X that could be published in a magazine or newspaper.
12. Explain why it's important to evaluate sources when researching a topic.
13. Analyze the arguments in an article (paste it into ChatGPT) and explain why they may or may not be persuasive.
14. Compare and contrast two sources of information on a specific topic.
15. Find research that directly supports or refutes an argument related to (topic).

16. Describe the ethical implications of using artificial intelligence to write essays.
17. Explain why (topic) is relevant to current events in a concise and clear manner.
18. Create a list of questions that could be used to start a discussion about (topic).
19. Evaluate an argument from a scholarly article related to (topic).
20. Summarize the main points of a scholarly article related to (topic).
21. Generate a list of sources for further reading about (topic).
22. Analyze the credibility of a source related to (topic).
23. Create an annotated bibliography about (topic) with five entries.
24. Write an editorial about a current issue related to (topic).
25. Develop an argumentative essay on (topic) from different perspectives.
26. How can I structure an essay?
27. What would be the best approach to writing a paper?
28. What research would be most relevant for X topic?
29. In (novel or book), why did (author)…?
30. What are some writing techniques used in the passage above (paste the passage into ChatGPT)?

Some educational examples:

1. What are the fundamental principles of the scientific method and how are they applied in various fields of study?
2. Explain the process of osmosis and its role in the transport of materials in living organisms.
3. Discuss the role of the media in shaping public opinion and its impact on democracy.
4. Outline the events and significance of the American Revolution.
5. What are the key characteristics and features of different types of ecosystems, such as forests, deserts, and grasslands?
6. Discuss the impact of globalization on the economy, society, and culture.
7. Discuss the causes and effects of the Great Depression and how it was addressed through government intervention.
8. What were the major beliefs and practices of Buddhism and how have they evolved over time?
9. Describe the discovery and significance of plate tectonics in understanding the Earth's geology.
10. Explain the concept of energy and the different forms it can take, such as thermal, kinetic, and potential energy.
11. Discuss the impact of technology on education and how it is changing the way we learn.
12. Outline the major events and consequences of World War II.
13. Explain the process of natural selection and how it leads to evolution.
14. What is the role of government in regulating the economy and protecting the rights and welfare of citizens?
15. Discuss the social, cultural, and economic changes brought about by the feminist movement.
16. Explain the basic principles of aerodynamics and how they apply to the design of aircraft and other vehicles.

17. What were the causes and consequences of the collapse of the Soviet Union?
18. Discuss the impact of the Internet and social media on communication and society.
19. Describe the key elements and beliefs of Taoism and Confucianism and how they have influenced Chinese culture and philosophy.
20. What is the role of the judiciary in interpreting and enforcing the law?
21. Explain the process of mitosis and meiosis and their significance in cell division and reproduction.
22. Discuss the impact of the Green Revolution on agriculture and food production.
23. Outline the major events and significance of the Cold War.
24. Explain the basic principles of electromagnetism and their applications in technology and industry.
25. What are the key theories and models in macroeconomics and how are they used to analyze the economy?
26. Discuss the impact of immigration on society and the economy.
27. Describe the history and evolution of jazz music and its influence on other musical genres.
28. What were the causes and consequences of the Cuban Revolution?
29. Explain the basic principles of thermodynamics and their applications in energy and engineering.