

Simplified Paul-Elder Framework for AI Prompt Development

1. QUESTION (Purpose & Problem)

- What exactly am I trying to solve or understand?
- Why is this important?

2. CONTEXT (Information & Assumptions)

- What key facts or data are relevant?
- What assumptions am I making?

3. PERSPECTIVES (Point of View & Breadth)

- What's my viewpoint on this?
- What other perspectives should be considered?

4. IMPLICATIONS (Consequences & Depth)

- What might result from this?
- What deeper issues are involved?

5. CLARITY (Standards for Answer)

- How should the AI structure its response?
- What level of detail do I need?

6. EVALUATION (Critical Thinking Traits)

- How can the AI help check my reasoning?
- What biases should I be aware of?

Prompt Template:

I'm seeking advice on [brief description of problem]. Here's a breakdown of my thinking:

1. QUESTION:
 - I'm trying to [specific goal].
 - This matters because [importance].
2. CONTEXT:
 - Key facts: [list 2-3 crucial points].
 - I'm assuming [key assumption].
3. PERSPECTIVES:
 - My view: [your perspective].
 - Consider also: [alternative viewpoint].
4. IMPLICATIONS:
 - This could result in [potential outcome].
 - Deeper issue: [underlying concern].
5. CLARITY:
 - Please structure your response as [desired format].
 - I need [brief/detailed] explanations.
6. EVALUATION:
 - Help me check if [aspect of reasoning] is sound.
 - I might be biased about [potential bias].

Based on this, please provide your analysis and advice.

Blog Scenarios, AI Instructions, and Examples

1. Curriculum Straitjacket

Scenario: Ms. Johnson, a high school English teacher, struggles to implement a new standardized curriculum mandated by the district. The prescribed material feels rigid and doesn't account for her students' diverse needs and abilities. She finds herself torn between following directives and adapting lessons to engage her class effectively.

My Planning

QUESTION (Purpose & Problem)

- I'm trying to find ways to implement the new standardized curriculum while still meeting my students' diverse needs and abilities.
- This is important because I want to ensure my students are engaged and learning effectively, while also meeting district requirements.

2. CONTEXT (Information & Assumptions)

- The new curriculum is rigid and doesn't account for student diversity.
- I'm assuming I have to follow the curriculum exactly as prescribed.

3. PERSPECTIVES (Point of View & Breadth)

- I believe the standardized approach limits my ability to adapt to student needs.
- I should consider that the curriculum might have merits I haven't recognized, or that there might be flexibility I haven't explored.

4. IMPLICATIONS (Consequences & Depth)

- This situation could lead to disengaged students and poorer learning outcomes.
- The deeper issue is balancing district accountability with teacher autonomy and student-centered learning.

5. CLARITY (Standards for Answer)

- I'd like the AI to provide actionable steps I can take to address this challenge.
- I need detailed explanations for each suggestion to understand how to implement them effectively.

6. EVALUATION (Critical Thinking Traits)

- The AI could help me evaluate whether my concerns about the curriculum are justified or if I'm overlooking potential benefits.

- I might be biased towards my usual teaching methods and resistant to change.

AI Instructions

I'm seeking advice on implementing a standardized curriculum while meeting diverse student needs. Here's a breakdown of my thinking:

QUESTION:

- I'm trying to balance district mandates with effective teaching.
- This matters because student engagement and learning outcomes are at stake.

CONTEXT:

- Key facts: New curriculum is rigid; students have diverse needs and abilities.
- I'm assuming I must fully adhere to the district's curriculum.

PERSPECTIVES:

- My view: The curriculum doesn't allow for necessary adaptations.
- Consider also: The standardized approach might have merits I'm overlooking.

IMPLICATIONS:

- This could result in disengaged students and poorer learning outcomes.
- Deeper issue: Balancing accountability with teacher autonomy and student needs.

CLARITY:

- Please structure your response as actionable steps.
- I need detailed explanations for each suggestion.

EVALUATION:

- Help me check if my concerns about the curriculum are justified.
- I might be biased about the value of my usual teaching methods.

Based on this, please provide your analysis and advice.

Assess AI's Response

Note: This response was generated by ChatGPT 4o

Citation:

- ChatGPT. "I'm seeking advic..." A.I. Archives, 24 July 2024, <https://aiarchives.org/id/UOfC2bQ7hxlDuwnaBfuq>

Analysis and Advice on Implementing a Standardized Curriculum While Meeting Diverse Student Needs

Question: Balancing district mandates with effective teaching to ensure student engagement and learning outcomes.

Context:

- **Key Facts:** The new curriculum is rigid; students have diverse needs and abilities.
- **Assumptions:** Full adherence to the district's curriculum is required.

Perspectives:

- **Your View:** The curriculum doesn't allow for necessary adaptations.
- **Other Perspectives:** The standardized approach might have merits, such as ensuring consistency and meeting accountability standards.

Implications:

- **Immediate:** Potential disengagement and poorer learning outcomes.
- **Deeper Issue:** Balancing accountability with teacher autonomy and student needs.

Clarity:

- **Actionable Steps:** Detailed explanations for each suggestion.

Evaluation:

- **Concerns Justified:** Checking if concerns about the curriculum are justified.
- **Potential Bias:** Acknowledging possible bias toward the value of usual teaching methods.

Actionable Steps

1. **Understand the Curriculum's Intent and Flexibility**
 - **Explanation:** Begin by thoroughly understanding the objectives and goals of the new curriculum. Identify the non-negotiables and the areas where you have flexibility.
 - **Action:** Attend professional development sessions, consult with curriculum developers, and read all supporting documents to gain clarity on essential components versus adaptable parts.

2. Conduct a Needs Assessment

- **Explanation:** Assess the diverse needs and abilities of your students to tailor your approach within the framework of the new curriculum.
- **Action:** Use diagnostic assessments, surveys, and observations to gather data on your students' learning styles, strengths, and areas for improvement.

3. Differentiate Instruction within the Framework

- **Explanation:** Use differentiated instruction techniques to meet the diverse needs of students while adhering to the curriculum standards.
- **Action:** Implement strategies such as tiered assignments, flexible grouping, and scaffolded support. Use the curriculum's content but vary the process and products based on student readiness and interests.

4. Incorporate Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

- **Explanation:** Apply UDL principles to create a learning environment that accommodates all learners.
- **Action:** Provide multiple means of representation, engagement, and expression. For instance, use various media for instruction, offer choices in assignments, and provide assistive technologies as needed.

5. Leverage Technology

- **Explanation:** Use educational technology to enhance and personalize learning experiences while meeting curriculum standards.
- **Action:** Integrate tools such as learning management systems, adaptive learning software, and online resources to provide individualized learning paths and real-time feedback.

6. Collaborate with Colleagues

- **Explanation:** Work with other teachers to share strategies and resources for implementing the curriculum effectively.
- **Action:** Participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), co-plan lessons, and observe each other's classrooms to exchange ideas and support.

7. Engage in Continuous Reflection and Adjustment

- **Explanation:** Regularly reflect on the effectiveness of your teaching methods and make adjustments as needed.
- **Action:** Keep a teaching journal, seek feedback from students and peers, and use formative assessments to gauge student understanding and engagement. Adjust your strategies based on this feedback.

8. Communicate with Stakeholders

- **Explanation:** Keep open lines of communication with parents, administrators, and students about the curriculum and your instructional strategies.
- **Action:** Hold parent-teacher conferences, send regular updates, and involve students in goal-setting and self-assessment activities to foster a collaborative learning environment.

Evaluation

1. Check Justification of Concerns:

- **Action:** Compare student engagement and learning outcomes before and after implementing the new curriculum. Gather feedback from students and parents on their perceptions of the changes.
- **Tool:** Use surveys, focus groups, and academic performance data to assess the impact.

2. Assess Potential Bias:

- **Action:** Reflect on the effectiveness of your usual teaching methods compared to the new curriculum. Seek objective feedback from colleagues and supervisors.
- **Tool:** Use self-assessment checklists and peer evaluations to identify any biases and areas for growth.

By following these steps, you can balance the district mandates with effective teaching, ensuring that diverse student needs are met while adhering to the standardized curriculum. This approach will help you remain accountable while maintaining the autonomy to adapt your teaching methods to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes.

2. Discipline Tug-of-War

Scenario: Principal Rodriguez faces mounting pressure from parents regarding the school's approach to student discipline. Several vocal parents demand stricter punishments, while others advocate for more restorative practices. He must navigate these conflicting views while maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment.

My Planning

1. QUESTION (Purpose & Problem)

- I'm trying to develop a balanced discipline approach that addresses conflicting parent expectations.
- This is crucial because it affects our school climate, student well-being, and community relationships.

2. CONTEXT (Information & Assumptions)

- Some parents are demanding stricter punishments, while others advocate for restorative practices.
- I'm assuming I need to find a middle ground to satisfy everyone.

3. PERSPECTIVES (Point of View & Breadth)

- I believe a balanced approach combining elements of both strict and restorative practices might work best.

- I should consider that one approach might be more effective for our specific school community, or that parent education might be necessary.

4. IMPLICATIONS (Consequences & Depth)

- This situation could result in ongoing parent conflicts or inconsistent discipline practices.
- The deeper issue involves aligning our discipline philosophy with school values, student needs, and community expectations.

5. CLARITY (Standards for Answer)

- I'd like the AI to outline a strategic plan for addressing this issue.
- Brief explanations with concrete examples would be most helpful.

6. EVALUATION (Critical Thinking Traits)

- The AI could help me assess whether trying to please all parents is the right approach.
- I might be biased towards avoiding conflict at all costs, potentially at the expense of effective policy.

AI Instructions

I'm seeking advice on managing conflicting parent expectations about student discipline. Here's a breakdown of my thinking:

QUESTION:

- I'm trying to create a balanced discipline approach that satisfies diverse parent views.
- This matters because it affects school climate and student well-being.

CONTEXT:

- Key facts: Some parents want stricter punishments; others prefer restorative practices.
- I'm assuming I need to find a middle ground to please everyone.

PERSPECTIVES:

- My view: A balanced approach combining both methods might work best.
- Consider also: One approach might be more effective for our specific school community.

IMPLICATIONS:

- This could result in ongoing parent conflicts or inconsistent discipline practices.
- Deeper issue: Aligning discipline philosophy with school values and student needs.

CLARITY:

- Please structure your response as a strategic plan.
- I need brief explanations with concrete examples.

EVALUATION:

- Help me check if trying to please all parents is the right approach.
- I might be biased about avoiding conflict at all costs.

Based on this, please provide your analysis and advice.

Assess AI's Response

Note: This response was generated by Claude 3.5 Sonnet

Thank you for providing such a detailed breakdown of your situation regarding student discipline approaches. I'll structure my response as a strategic plan with brief explanations and concrete examples, as requested.

Strategic Plan for Balancing Parent Expectations on Student Discipline

1. Reassess the goal
 - Explanation: Aiming to please all parents may not be the most effective approach.
 - Example: Instead of finding a middle ground, focus on what's best for student growth and school values.
2. Conduct a school community assessment
 - Explanation: Gather data on current discipline issues and effectiveness of existing methods.
 - Example: Survey teachers, students, and parents; analyze discipline records.
3. Define core discipline philosophy
 - Explanation: Align discipline approach with school values and student needs.
 - Example: If school values include personal growth and community responsibility, emphasize restorative practices while maintaining clear consequences.
4. Develop a tiered discipline system
 - Explanation: Combine different approaches based on infraction severity and frequency.
 - Example: Tier 1 (Minor/First-time): Restorative practices (e.g., conflict resolution circles) Tier 2 (Repeated/Moderate): Combination of restorative and traditional (e.g., detention with reflection) Tier 3 (Severe): Stricter consequences with mandatory restorative component
5. Create clear communication channels
 - Explanation: Regularly inform parents about discipline philosophy and practices.

- Example: Host parent workshops, send newsletters, and maintain an updated online resource.
- 6. Implement staff training
 - Explanation: Ensure consistent application of the new discipline approach.
 - Example: Provide professional development on restorative practices and de-escalation techniques.
- 7. Establish a discipline review committee
 - Explanation: Include diverse stakeholders to periodically assess and adjust the system.
 - Example: Quarterly meetings with teachers, parents, administrators, and student representatives.
- 8. Monitor and evaluate
 - Explanation: Regularly assess the effectiveness of the new approach.
 - Example: Track changes in behavior incidents, student satisfaction, and parent feedback.

Evaluation of your approach:

1. Trying to please all parents may lead to an ineffective compromise.
2. Focus on evidence-based practices that align with school values and student needs.
3. Communicate clearly and consistently to build understanding and support.
4. Be prepared for some initial resistance, but stand firm on well-researched decisions.

By implementing this strategic plan, you can create a more effective discipline system that prioritizes student growth and school values while addressing diverse parent concerns. Remember, the goal is not to avoid all conflict, but to make decisions that best serve your school community.

3. Achievement Chasm

Scenario: Mr. Chen, a middle school math teacher, notices a widening achievement gap in his classroom. Despite his efforts, a group of students consistently underperforms. He grapples with how to provide targeted support without neglecting the rest of the class or falling behind on the curriculum timeline.

My Planning

1. QUESTION (Purpose & Problem)

- I'm trying to find ways to support underperforming students without neglecting others or falling behind on the curriculum.

- This matters because every student deserves the opportunity to succeed and reach their potential in math.

2. CONTEXT (Information & Assumptions)

- A group of students consistently underperforms despite my efforts.
- The curriculum timeline is tight, limiting time for interventions.
- I'm assuming I need to find a solution within my current class structure.

3. PERSPECTIVES (Point of View & Breadth)

- I believe targeted interventions are needed but seem logistically challenging within class time.
- I should consider that the root causes of underperformance might extend beyond my classroom.

4. IMPLICATIONS (Consequences & Depth)

- This situation could lead to a growing disparity in math achievement and preparation for future courses.
- The deeper issue involves ensuring equitable education while managing limited time and resources.

5. CLARITY (Standards for Answer)

- I'd like the AI to provide a list of strategies with pros and cons for each.
- Detailed explanations of implementation steps would be most helpful.

6. EVALUATION (Critical Thinking Traits)

- The AI could help me assess whether focusing solely on the achievement gap is the best use of my efforts.
- I might be biased about my ability to influence all factors affecting student performance, potentially overlooking external supports or systemic issues.

AI Instructions

I'm seeking advice on addressing a widening achievement gap in my classroom. Here's a breakdown of my thinking:

QUESTION:

- I'm trying to support underperforming students without neglecting others or falling behind.
- This matters because every student deserves to succeed and reach their potential.

CONTEXT:

- Key facts: A group of students consistently underperforms; curriculum timeline is tight.
- I'm assuming I need to find a solution within my current class structure.

PERSPECTIVES:

- My view: Targeted interventions are needed but seem logistically challenging.
- Consider also: The root causes might be outside my classroom.

IMPLICATIONS:

- This could result in a growing disparity in student achievement and preparation.
- Deeper issue: Ensuring equitable education while managing time and resources.

CLARITY:

- Please structure your response as a list of strategies with pros and cons.
- I need detailed explanations of implementation steps.

EVALUATION:

- Help me check if focusing on the achievement gap is the best use of my efforts.
- I might be biased about my ability to influence all factors affecting student performance.

Based on this, please provide your analysis and advice.

Assess AI's Response

Note: The following was generated by Google Gemini

Citation:

- Gemini. "I'm seeking advic..." A.I. Archives, 24 July 2024, <https://aiarchives.org/id/1VEsCRBjLtfeFNvVArMg>

Addressing the Achievement Gap: Strategies and Considerations

Understanding the Challenge

Before diving into strategies, it's crucial to recognize that addressing the achievement gap is often a complex issue influenced by factors beyond the classroom. While targeted interventions are essential, they might not be the sole solution.

Potential Strategies

1. Differentiated Instruction

- **Pros:** Tailors instruction to meet individual student needs, can address varying skill levels.
- **Cons:** Requires significant planning and preparation time, might be challenging to implement with large class sizes.
- **Implementation:**
 - Identify students' strengths and weaknesses through assessments.
 - Create varied learning activities to cater to different learning styles.
 - Provide tiered assignments or options for students to choose from.
 - Offer additional support or challenges as needed.

2. Small Group Instruction

- **Pros:** Allows for focused attention on specific skill areas, builds stronger teacher-student relationships.
- **Cons:** Time-consuming, requires careful planning, might be difficult with large class sizes.
- **Implementation:**
 - Identify students with similar needs.
 - Develop targeted lesson plans for small groups.
 - Utilize peer tutoring or cooperative learning strategies.
 - Rotate group membership to maximize benefits.

3. Tiered Assignments

- **Pros:** Differentiates instruction without overwhelming students, provides choice and challenge.
- **Cons:** Requires careful planning, might not address all student needs.
- **Implementation:**
 - Create assignments with varying levels of complexity.
 - Offer opportunities for extension activities for advanced students.
 - Provide additional support for struggling students.

4. Formative Assessment

- **Pros:** Provides ongoing feedback, informs instruction, helps identify struggling students early.
- **Cons:** Time-consuming, requires effective analysis of data.
- **Implementation:**
 - Use a variety of assessment methods (e.g., quizzes, exit tickets, observations).
 - Analyze assessment data to identify patterns and trends.
 - Adjust instruction based on student needs.

5. Building Relationships

- **Pros:** Creates a positive learning environment, fosters student motivation, builds trust.
- **Cons:** Time-consuming, requires genuine effort.
- **Implementation:**
 - Get to know students on a personal level.
 - Show interest in students' lives and goals.
 - Create opportunities for student-to-student interaction.
 - Provide positive reinforcement and encouragement.

Evaluating Your Approach

While focusing on the achievement gap is important, it's essential to consider other factors influencing student performance. Some questions to reflect on:

- Are there systemic issues affecting student achievement (e.g., poverty, lack of resources)?
- Are there other factors impacting student engagement or motivation?
- How can you collaborate with colleagues, administrators, and parents to support students?

Remember, addressing the achievement gap is a long-term process that requires persistence, collaboration, and a focus on student well-being. It's also crucial to celebrate small successes and avoid burnout.

Would you like to delve deeper into any of these strategies or discuss specific challenges you're facing in your classroom?