



# NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SOCIETY CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SACRAMENTO

<http://csus.edu/ai>

## THE BASICS OF A RICH PROMPT

1. **Quality Over Quantity:** A *rich prompt* signifies quality, not length. It's about creating prompts that are engaging, clear, and thought-provoking. A *lazy prompt* is asking AI to do everything for you without any input, like "write a paper for me." Lazy prompts are unethical and produce poor quality output.
2. **Components of a Rich Prompt:**
  - **Give it an Idea:** Start with a unique, novel idea that challenges the AI to explore new avenues of thought. The more original the idea, the better the AI's response.
  - **Give it a Job:** Use active verbs like "elaborate," "expand," or "provide" to clarify the task for the AI, leading to more focused and useful responses.
  - **Give it Some Food:** Provide comprehensive context. This might include examples, hints, or even recycled texts from previous works to guide the AI.
  - **Give it a Genre:** Specify the audience, style, and genre. This helps tailor the AI's output to your intended readers, whether they are students, academics, or professionals. A version of it is to assign a role, like "You are a writing coach," or, "You are an expert in data analysis."
  - **Give it Another Push:** If the initial output isn't satisfactory, refine your prompt. Check for clarity, detail, and alignment with your intent. If the output does not improve after 3-4 iterations, start another conversation (chat) and start over.
3. **Crafting Effective Prompts:**
  - Understand that the AI's output is highly dependent on the input quality. A well-crafted prompt can lead to insightful and satisfying results.
  - Avoid ambiguity and excessive brevity in your prompts. Detailed and clear instructions lead to better alignment with your intended outcomes.
4. **Iterative Process:**
  - The process of using AI is iterative. If the initial output doesn't meet your expectations, refine the prompt and try again.
  - Acknowledge the limitations of AI and use these as opportunities for creativity and original writing.

## Tips

- For novices: Start with simple tasks and gradually increase the complexity of your prompts as you become more comfortable with the AI's capabilities.
- For those in educational contexts: Experiment with AI-generated content for various purposes, like creating study materials, drafting administrative communications, or developing research ideas. Remember to align your prompts with the specific educational context and goals.