Research & Analysis Prompts

Break any subject into its foundational components—history, mechanisms, incentives, assumptions, systems, and real-world applications—for structured expert-level understanding.
Difficulty: Beginner → Advanced
Model: ChatGPT / Claude
Use Case: Deep Research & Education
Updated: May 2026
Why This Prompt Exists
Most people “learn” topics at a surface level.

They memorize:

- definitions
- summaries
- high-level explanations

But they never fully understand how a subject actually works.

Real understanding requires breaking things down into:

- structural components
- underlying systems
- causal mechanisms
- historical context
- incentive structures
- real-world applications

Without deconstruction, knowledge stays fragile and shallow.

This framework forces deep structural understanding instead of surface-level explanation.

The Prompt

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Assume the role of a senior subject matter analyst, educator, and systems thinker specializing in breaking complex topics into structured, teachable components.

Your task is to deconstruct the given topic into its fundamental layers of understanding.

Before generating outputs, analyze:
- historical context and evolution
- core definitions and boundaries
- underlying mechanisms
- system structure and relationships
- incentive and incentive alignment
- real-world applications
- limitations and edge cases
- common misconceptions

Then generate the following:

1. Simple High-Level Explanation
2. Historical Context & Evolution
3. Core Concepts & Definitions
4. System Structure Breakdown
5. Key Mechanisms (How It Works)
6. Stakeholders & Incentives
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7. Real-World Applications
8. Common Misconceptions
9. Edge Cases & Limitations
10. Related Systems or Fields
11. Practical Examples
12. Strategic or Practical Implications
13. Summary of Deep Understanding

INPUTS:

Topic:
[INSERT TOPIC]

Audience Level:
[BEGINNER / INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED]

Purpose:
[LEARNING / STRATEGY / RESEARCH / TEACHING]

RULES:
- Avoid shallow summaries
- Prioritize structural understanding
- Explain causality, not just description
- Break concepts into components
- Be clear, precise, and logically structured
- Ensure the output builds real understanding, not memorization
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How To Use It

- Use this when learning unfamiliar or complex domains for the first time.

- Re-run it after gaining experience to deepen structural understanding.
- Pair it with trend analysis or market intelligence prompts for strategic depth.
- Use it to prepare teaching material or explain concepts clearly to others.
- Avoid relying on summaries—force full deconstruction of the system.

Example Input

Topic: How recommendation algorithms work in social media platforms

Audience Level: Intermediate

Purpose: Learning and research

Why It Works
Most explanations simplify complexity instead of exposing structure.

This framework improves understanding by forcing:

- layered decomposition of knowledge
- mechanism-based reasoning
- contextual awareness of systems
- clarity between surface behavior and underlying logic
- transferable understanding across domains

True expertise is not knowing more facts.

It is understanding how systems actually work beneath the surface.

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