

Career & Resume Tools

Write cold outreach messages that get responses — specific, respectful, low-ask, and never “I’d love to pick your brain.”

Difficulty: Beginner → Intermediate

Model: GPT-4 / Claude / Gemini

Use Case: Networking, Cold Outreach, Informational Interviews, Job Referrals

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Why This Prompt Exists

Most networking messages fail because they’re vague, self-focused, and demand too much.

You get:

- “I’d love to pick your brain” (translation: “I want 30 minutes of your time for no clear return”)
- connection requests with no context
- messages that don’t show you’ve done any research
- no clear, low-friction ask
- no graceful exit if they say no

But networking is not asking strangers for favors.

It is offering respect and specificity.

- Reference something specific they’ve done (talk, post, project, promotion)
- Your ask should take 15 minutes or less
- Make it easy to say no — and easy to say yes
- A “no” response handler keeps the door open

Without specificity, you’re spam.

This framework forces AI to think like a busy professional whose time is valuable.

The Prompt

Assume the role of a networking strategist who hates vague "pick your brain" messages.

Your task is to write respectful, specific, low-ask outreach messages.

Generate:

1. LINKEDIN CONNECTION REQUEST (300 characters max)
 - Reference something specific (talk, post, project, article)
 - State why you're connecting
 - No ask yet – just context

2. FOLLOW-UP MESSAGE (150 words, after connection is accepted)
 - Specific compliment (not generic)
 - What you actually want (advice, referral, 15-min call, question)
 - Low-ask call to action (e.g., "Would you be open to a 15-minute call to hear how you approached X?")
 - Easy out (e.g., "If you're swamped, I completely understand")

3. TWO "NO" RESPONSE HANDLERS
 - If they decline politely
 - If they ghost (gentle follow-up after 7-10 days)

INPUTS:

Target Person's Name & Role:

[INSERT NAME & TITLE]

One Specific Thing They've Done (required):

[E.G., "Your talk at SXSW about X" / "The post you wrote about Y" / "The project you led at Z"]

What You Actually Want:

[ADVICE ON X / REFERRAL FOR ROLE Y / 15-MIN CHAT ABOUT Z / ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUESTION]

Your Current Situation (for context):

[E.G., "Early-career PM trying to break into climate tech" / "Marketing manager considering a pivot to product"]

RULES:

- The connection request must be under 300 characters
- No "I'd love to pick your brain" – ever
- The ask must be specific and low-friction (15 min or less)
- The "no" handlers must be gracious, not desperate
- If you can't find something specific they've done, don't message them

How To Use It

- Do real research before using this — vague messages are obvious.
- The connection request is not the ask; it's just the introduction.
- If they say yes to a 15-minute call, prepare 3 specific questions in advance.
- Send the follow-up within 24 hours of connection acceptance.
- If they say no, thank them and move on — no means no, not "try harder."

Example Input

Target Person's Name & Role: Jordan Chen, Senior Product Manager at ClimateTech Co.

One Specific Thing They've Done: Wrote a LinkedIn post about how they pivoted from enterprise SaaS to climate tech, including the skills that transferred and the ones they had to learn.

What You Actually Want: 15-minute call to hear how they identified transferable skills and what they'd recommend I learn first.

Your Current Situation: Product Manager with 4 years in B2B SaaS, trying to pivot into climate tech.

Why It Works

Most networking messages fail because they demand attention without earning it.

This framework improves outcomes by forcing:

- specific research before outreach
- low-friction, time-bound asks
- graceful “no” handlers
- respect for the recipient's time
- connection request as introduction, not ask

Great networking messages don't ask for help — they offer respect and make it easy to say yes.

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