

Prompt Engineering / Role Prompting

Generate detailed role descriptions (expertise, tone, boundaries, anti-persona) for any domain.

Difficulty: Intermediate

Model: GPT-4 / Claude / Gemini

Use Case: Role-Based Prompts, Conversational Agents, Specialized Assistants

Updated: May 2026

Why This Prompt Exists

“Act as an expert” is the most common role prompt — and the least effective. Experts don’t just know things; they have specific ways of thinking, communicating, and handling uncertainty.

You get:

- generic “expert” responses that could come from any domain
- no calibration of expertise level (junior vs. senior vs. Nobel laureate)
- missing domain-specific communication styles (a surgeon sounds different from a software engineer)
- no boundaries on what the persona wouldn’t do
- roles that drift or contradict themselves

But great personas have structure:

- expertise: specific knowledge, credentials, experience
- tone: formal vs. conversational, technical vs. accessible
- approach: how they solve problems (first principles vs. analogy vs. data-driven)
- boundaries: what they won’t do or claim
- anti-persona: what they’re NOT (to prevent stereotyping)

Without structure, role prompts are just dressing.

This prompt generates detailed, usable personas for any domain.

The Prompt

Assume the role of a persona design expert who creates detailed role prompts.

Your task is to generate a structured persona for a given domain and use case.

Generate:

1. PERSONA NAME & DOMAIN

- [e.g., "Senior Data Scientist" or "Compassionate ER Nurse"]

2. EXPERTISE SPECIFICATION

- Core knowledge areas (3-5)
- Years of experience implied
- Credentials (if relevant)
- Specific methodologies or frameworks they use

3. COMMUNICATION STYLE

- Tone (formal / professional / conversational / warm / direct)
- Vocabulary level (technical / mixed / accessible)
- Sentence structure (concise / explanatory / narrative)
- Use of examples, analogies, or stories

4. PROBLEM-SOLVING APPROACH

- How they diagnose problems
- What they prioritize
- How they handle uncertainty
- When they would say "I don't know"

5. BOUNDARIES & LIMITS

- What the persona would refuse to do
- What they would caveat or qualify
- What's outside their expertise

6. ANTI-PERSONA (what they are NOT)

- Stereotypes to avoid (e.g., "not the arrogant genius trope")
- Behaviors to exclude

7. READY-TO-USE ROLE PROMPT

- A copy-paste prompt template incorporating all of the above

INPUTS:

Domain / field:

[E.G., "Cybersecurity analysis"]

Use case:

[E.G., "Reviewing code for security vulnerabilities"]

Desired expertise level:

[JUNIOR / SENIOR / LEADER / NOBEL-LEVEL]

Tone preference:

[FORMAL / CONVERSATIONAL / DIRECT / WARM]

RULES:

- Avoid generic "expert" – specify what kind of expert
- Include specific knowledge areas (not just "knows everything about X")
- Define boundaries clearly – what won't the persona do?
- Anti-persona prevents harmful stereotypes (e.g., "not the cold, unemotional scientist")
- The final role prompt should be ready to paste into a conversation

How To Use It

- Run this before building any role-based agent – start with a well-defined persona.
- Use the "anti-persona" section to prevent unwanted tropes or stereotypes.
- Test the persona on edge cases – would a real expert respond this way?
- Create a library of personas for common use cases (teacher, coach, analyst, critic).
- Iterate on personas based on real usage – personas improve with testing.

Example Input

Domain / field:

"Software engineering code review"

Use case:

"Reviewing pull requests for security vulnerabilities and performance issues"

Desired expertise level:

"Senior – 10+ years experience"

Tone preference:

"Direct but constructive – not harsh"

Why It Works

Most role prompts are one sentence: “Act as a financial advisor.” That’s like hiring someone with no interview.

This framework improves outcomes by forcing:

- expertise specification (what do they actually know?)
- communication style (how do they talk?)
- problem-solving approach (how do they think?)
- boundaries (what won’t they do?)
- anti-persona (what stereotypes to avoid)

Great persona creation doesn’t just name a role — it defines how that role thinks, speaks, and acts.

Build Better AI Systems

Subscribe for advanced prompt engineering, AI coding tools, debugging frameworks, and practical strategies for developers and engineers.

Carefully engineered prompts for people doing real work.

Share this:

- [Share on Facebook \(Opens in new window\) Facebook](#)
- [Share on X \(Opens in new window\) X](#)

See also [Multi-Role Debate Facilitator](#)