

## Prompt Engineering / Role Prompting

Have two different personas debate a topic, then synthesize their best arguments.

Difficulty: Advanced

Model: GPT-4 / Claude / Gemini

Use Case: Decision Support, Strategy Development, Red-Teaming

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Why This Prompt Exists

One perspective is never enough. But getting multiple perspectives usually means asking multiple people — or simulating them badly.

You get:

- decisions based on a single point of view
- confirmation bias from asking one persona
- missing counterarguments that would change your mind
- shallow debates where both sides sound similar
- no synthesis of competing perspectives

But structured debates reveal truth:

- pro: strongest arguments for the proposition
- con: strongest arguments against
- rebuttal: each side responds to the other
- synthesis: what's valid from each side
- conclusion: what a reasonable person would believe

Without multi-role debate, you stay in your echo chamber.

This prompt facilitates structured debates between opposing personas.

## The Prompt

Assume the role of a debate facilitator who orchestrates multi-perspective discussions.

Your task is to have two personas debate a topic, then synthesize their arguments.

Generate:

### 1. TOPIC & POSITIONS

- Topic: [statement]
- Persona A (FOR): [description]
- Persona B (AGAINST): [description]

### 2. OPENING STATEMENTS

- Persona A: [2-3 paragraphs]
- Persona B: [2-3 paragraphs]

### 3. REBUTTAL ROUND

- Persona A responds to B's opening
- Persona B responds to A's opening

### 4. CROSS-EXAMINATION (2-3 exchanges)

- A asks B a challenging question → B answers
- B asks A a challenging question → A answers
- (Repeat)

### 5. CLOSING STATEMENTS (1 paragraph each)

## 6. SYNTHESIS (neutral facilitator)

- Where both personas agree
- Strongest point from each side
- What's still unresolved
- Balanced conclusion

### INPUTS:

Debate topic:

[E.G., "Remote work increases productivity"]

Persona A (FOR position):

[DESCRIBE – e.g., "Remote work advocate, tech executive"]

Persona B (AGAINST position):

[DESCRIBE – e.g., "Traditional office manager, 20 years experience"]

Number of exchanges:

[3 / 5 / 7]

Goal:

[DECISION SUPPORT / IDEA GENERATION / ASSUMPTION TESTING]

### RULES:

- Personas must be distinct (not just same person with different opinions)
- Each persona should represent a coherent worldview
- Rebuttals must engage with the other side's arguments (no strawmen)
- Synthesis should be balanced – not just "both sides have points"

- Flag if one persona clearly dominates (unbalanced debate)

#### How To Use It

- Use this before major decisions — let opposing personas stress-test your assumptions.
- Create personas that genuinely disagree (not manufactured conflict).
- Read the synthesis first, then the full debate if you need depth.
- Use the unresolved questions as your research agenda.
- Run debates on the same topic with different persona pairs to see if conclusions hold.

#### Example Input

**Debate topic:**

“Should our company adopt a four-day work week?”

**Persona A (FOR position):**

“Productivity researcher who studies compressed work schedules. Evidence-focused, cites studies.”

**Persona B (AGAINST position):**

“Operations director who manages client-facing teams. Worried about coverage and customer expectations.”

**Number of exchanges:**

“3”

**Goal:**

“Decision support for leadership team”

#### Why It Works

Most people consider opposing views briefly — then dismiss them. Structured debate forces engagement.

This framework improves outcomes by forcing:

- opening statements (full position articulation)
- rebuttals (engagement, not dismissal)
- cross-examination (pressure-testing)
- closing statements (final position refinement)
- synthesis (extracting value from both sides)

Great multi-role debate doesn't declare a winner — it produces a better decision.

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