CAMINO5

Process of Elimination S1E8

THE FRAMING STACK PLAYBOOK

Prompting Is Dead: Why the Future Belongs to Paired Prompting

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THE PROBLEM

Prompting Is Dead: Why the Future Belongs to Paired Prompting

Over the past year, prompting has evolved from a creative exploration into a mechanical shortcut. What began as a tool for shaping interactions with AI has become a template-driven exercise, reduced to fill-in-the-blank syntax, recycled prompts, and formulaic instructions passed around like cheat codes.

The result? A surge in outputs that feel indistinguishable. Content that lacks context, precision, and personality. And worse, an overreliance on base prompts that **encourage** hallucination by skipping over the very thing that makes AI useful: **clarity.**

It's not that prompting doesn't work. It's that it no longer **thinks**.

The Problem With "Basic Prompting"

You've seen them:

> "Act as an expert [X]. Write a [tone] [format] about [topic] for [audience]..."

These templates save time but strip away learning. They assume too much context, offer too little definition, and avoid including your most important asset, your experience. And as more teams rely on the same without internal guidelines, shared reference points, or actual debate, the output gets flatter. More neutral. More average. More hallucinations.

THE SOLUTION

The Case for a New Approach: Paired Prompting

Rather than treat prompting as a one-off command, **Paired Prompting** turns it into a process.
It's built on the idea that AI shouldn't replace your thinking, it should challenge and sharpen it. That you can still save time *without* skipping the depth. That the best work comes from tension, iteration, and exchange.
This model breaks prompting into four parts: **context**, **research**, **argument**, and **conclusion**. Each phase invites a different mode of thinking and a different kind of prompt. Together, they form a writing loop that's less about prompting and more about partnership.



FOUR STEP GUIDE TO PAIRED PROMPTING



1. Context

Prevents hallucination by giving the AI actual knowledge to work with.



2. Research

Expands your thinking and uncovers what you didn't know to ask.



3. Argument

introduces friction that clarifies, sharpens, and exposes weak points.



4. Conclusion

Lets you co-write something specific — with tone, clarity, and edge.

1. **CONTEXT** PHASE: BUILD THE BRAIN

Before you write any prompt, teach the AI how to think with you. This is where you drop in reference points that give the AI something real to work with.

Load in:

- **Definitions** (brand terms, internal language)
- **Formulas or frameworks** you use
- **Relevant data** (reports, stats, benchmarks)
- **Conversations or emails** (client feedback, stakeholder notes)
- **Past examples** (both good and bad)
- **Constraints** (tone, deadlines, compliance rules)
- **Voice/style cues** (how it should sound)
- **Keep it simple** (use what you have)

Prompt example: *"Here are 3 client emails and a strategy doc. Pay attention to tone, pacing, and structure. Use this language as your baseline."*



2. **RESEARCH** PHASE: EXPLORE, DON'T EXECUTE

This phase is where you get smarter before you get specific. You're not asking AI to write a final output, you're using it to interrogate the landscape.
Your job: Ask, test, and challenge. Let AIl show its range, its gaps, and its potential.
Use prompts like:

🧠 **Understanding the Basics**

- "What do people usually misunderstand about this topic?"
- "Explain this as if to a skeptical executive."
- "What's the historical context behind this trend?"

🚩 **Testing Assumptions**

- "What's the strongest argument against this approach?"
- "Where might this strategy fall apart in practice?"
- "If someone failed at this, what were they likely missing?"

🔍 **Digging into Contrast**

- "How does this compare to [other methods/models]?"
- "What would a competitor likely say in response?"
- "What's different about this in [industry A] vs [industry B]?"

📊 **Pulling Patterns and Signals**

- "Based on recent data, what patterns are emerging?"
- "What does current customer behavior suggest about this?"
- "Where's the tension between what users say and what they do?"

🧭 **Framing and Reframing**

- "Give me 3 angles to frame this: practical, emotional, contrarian."
- "What if we framed this as a risk instead of an opportunity?"
- "What's the honest version of this headline vs. the 'safe' version?"

3. ARGUMENT PHASE: APPLY FRICTION

This is where you challenge your AI and your own assumptions. You don't just edit. You interrogate.
Here, friction isn't a bug. It's the point.
Use prompts like:

⚖️ Introduce Counterpoints

- "What's the opposite position of everything you just said?"
- "If this advice were completely wrong, what would make that true?"
- "List three groups of people who would disagree with this and why."

🥊 Pick a Fight

- "This sounds obvious. What's the most controversial take you can justify here?"
- "Push this argument further, what would make it provocative but still defensible?"
- "If you were presenting this to a hostile room, how would you defend it?"

🔄 Flip the Framing

- "Rewrite this from the perspective of someone who benefits from the status quo."
- "Now present this same idea as a risk instead of a benefit."
- "Assume we're wrong how would a competitor use this against us?"

🧩 Expose the Tradeoffs

- "What does this approach gain and what does it lose?"
- "Where does this recommendation fall apart under pressure?"
- "What does this idea cost that we're not acknowledging?"

🎯 Sharpen the Core

- "What part of this argument is weakest? Strengthen it."
- "Which sentence here is just filler? Cut it."
- "What part of this is still too vague and how do we make it specific?"

4. **CONCLUSION** PHASE: CO-WRITE THE FINAL OUTPUT

This is where everything comes together. After **context, research, and friction**, you're finally ready to **write**.
But don't just hand it off to AIwrite with it.
Treat your AI like a drafting partner. Ask for a version that reflects what you've built together.
Try:

Load in:

- "Write a clean first draft of this in a professional but neutral tone."
- "Tighten this to feel like something from Harvard Business Review, no fluff, precise, and well-structured."
- "Rewrite this paragraph to sound more like a smart analyst than a marketer."
- "Edit this for clarity and conciseness, leave tone alone."
- "Give me a punchier rewrite that keeps the same meaning."

📝 Simple Tone Definitions You Can Use

You don't need fancy language. AI understands natural phrasing:

Tone	How to Ask For It
HBR-style	"Write this like a short HBR article: calm, precise, and well-reasoned."
Sharp & opinionated	"Make this more assertive, tight sentences, clear point of view."
Casual & direct	"Say this like you're explaining it to a friend who's smart but busy."
Neutral & informative	"Strip out opinions, make this sound like a Wikipedia summary."
Bold & strategic	"Frame this like a founder talking to investors — direct and confident."

✂️ Edit with the AI

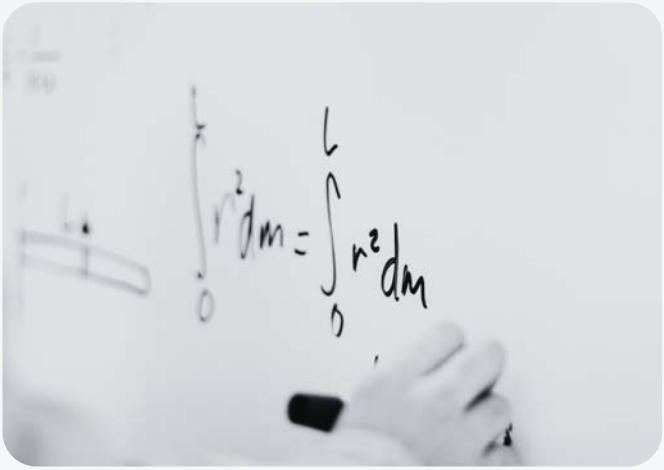
Don't wait for perfection. Rewrite as you go.
Prompts like:

- "Trim this to under 300 words without losing the core argument."
- "Clarify this with an example."
- "Cut the fluff from the opening."
- "Simplify any jargon in this section."

Your job isn't to approve the output. It's to own it.

THE **FORMULA** (CONDENSED)

1. Context: Upload relevant materials and set the frame.
2. Research: Ask questions, test logic, gather insights.
3. Argument: Challenge and refine the thinking through debate.
4. Conclusion: Co-author a final version with specificity and voice.





THIS ISN'T SLOWER. IT'S **SMARTER**.

Yes, **Paired Prompting** takes more intention. But it saves time by avoiding generic outputs, rewrites, and hallucination. It restores prompting to what it should be: a thinking tool. And it ensures that your ideas, your tone, your strategy, your voice and don't get flattened by someone else's framework.

Ready to Rethink Your AI Workflow?





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Camino5 helps teams move beyond templates to design paired prompting systems, agent-ready workflows, and full-stack AI that prioritizes clarity, context, and co-creation. Better thinking starts here.
→ Learn more at https://www.camino5.com/s1e8-poe-prompt-engineering-is-dead-framing-is-the-real-power-skill or email **hello@camino5.com**

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