

Free AI Prompt Pack for Authors

A practical collection of reusable prompt frameworks for idea development, drafting, editing, research, publishing, and marketing.

Use these as frameworks, not scripts.

Replace the bracketed fields with your book, audience, genre, goals, and current stage. Then refine the AI's response instead of accepting the first answer.

The goal: use AI to think more clearly, generate better options, identify weaknesses, and move through the publishing process more efficiently - without giving up your voice, judgment, or responsibility as the author.

1. Book Idea Development

Expand a Rough Book Idea

I am considering writing a book about [topic or idea].

The likely reader is [describe the audience].

Generate 10 distinct book concepts based on this idea.

For each concept, provide:

- the central premise
- the intended reader
- the main problem, desire, or curiosity it addresses
- what would make the book different from similar books
- a possible title direction

Avoid generic concepts. Prioritize ideas with a clear reader benefit or distinctive angle.

Find a Stronger Nonfiction Angle

I want to write a nonfiction book about [topic].

My experience or expertise includes [background].

The audience I want to help is [audience].

Identify 8 possible angles for this book. Each angle should solve a specific problem, answer an important question, or help the reader achieve a measurable outcome.

Explain why each angle might be compelling and where it could become too broad or generic.

Generate Fiction Premises

I want to write a [genre] novel.

Elements I am interested in include: [themes, settings, character types, tropes, conflicts, or ideas].

Generate 10 story premises that combine these elements in unexpected ways.

Each premise should include protagonist, central goal, major obstacle, stakes, source of tension, and one element that makes the concept distinctive.

Avoid premises that feel like obvious copies of well-known books or movies.

2. Planning and Outlining

Build a Nonfiction Book Outline

Help me create a practical nonfiction book outline.

Book topic: [topic]

Intended reader: [audience]

Main transformation or outcome: [what the reader should understand or be able to do]

Current book promise: [promise]

Build a logical chapter sequence that takes the reader from their current situation to the desired outcome.

For each chapter, provide its purpose, key question answered, major concepts, and practical examples or applications that would strengthen it.

Flag areas where the book risks becoming repetitive or too broad.

Stress-Test an Outline

Review the following book outline as a developmental editor:

[paste outline]

Evaluate logical progression, missing steps, repetitive chapters, chapters that appear too broad, chapters that appear too weak, and whether the reader receives the promised outcome.

Do not rewrite the outline immediately. First explain the biggest structural weaknesses and why they matter.

3. Drafting

Draft a Section From Notes

Help me draft a section of my book using only the information below.

Section purpose: [purpose]

Intended reader: [audience]

Tone: [tone]

My notes:

[paste notes]

Write a clear first draft that organizes these ideas into natural paragraphs.

Do not add unsupported facts, statistics, quotations, or examples. Avoid generic motivational language, repetitive conclusions, and unnecessary headings. Preserve the meaning and perspective of my source material.

Develop an Explanation

I need to explain the following concept to [audience]:

[concept]

Create three different ways to explain it:

1. a straightforward explanation
2. an explanation using an analogy
3. an explanation using a realistic example

Keep the explanations accurate and practical rather than clever for the sake of being clever.

Improve a Fiction Scene

Review the following fiction scene:

[paste scene]

Identify opportunities to strengthen character motivation, conflict, emotional tension, pacing, specificity, and dialogue.

Do not rewrite the scene yet. Give me a prioritized list of the changes that would have the greatest impact.

4. Editing and Revision

Developmental Editing Review

Act as a developmental editor and evaluate this chapter:

[paste chapter]

Focus on clarity of purpose, organization, logical flow, missing explanations, repetition, pacing, and reader confusion.

Identify the five most important revisions. Explain why each change would improve the chapter.

Do not rewrite the chapter unless I specifically ask.

Make Writing Sound More Human

Review this passage for patterns that make it sound generic, mechanical, or AI-generated:

[paste passage]

Look specifically for repetitive sentence structures, vague abstractions, unnecessary intensifiers, predictable transitions, excessive summaries, corporate or inflated language, and phrases that could appear in almost any article.

Identify the problem areas and suggest more specific alternatives while preserving the author's meaning.

Line Editing

Line edit the following passage for clarity, rhythm, concision, and readability:

[paste text]

Preserve the author's voice. Do not make the prose more formal unless necessary.

Remove repetition and awkward phrasing, but do not remove useful personality or specificity.

After the edit, briefly explain the most important changes.

5. Research

Create a Research Plan

I am researching [topic] for a book.

The chapter or section will focus on [specific focus].

Create a research plan that identifies key questions, important terminology, likely primary sources, useful secondary sources, areas where claims should be independently verified, and possible gaps or controversies I should investigate.

Do not invent sources or citations.

Identify Claims That Need Verification

Review this draft:

[paste text]

Identify every statement that may require factual verification.

Categorize each as low verification risk, moderate verification risk, or high verification risk.

Pay special attention to statistics, dates, quotations, legal or regulatory claims, medical or scientific claims, historical assertions, and claims about companies or organizations.

Do not assume any claim is correct simply because it sounds plausible.

Organize Research Notes

Organize the following research notes into a usable structure for an author:

[paste notes]

Group related information by topic.

Separate verified facts, quotations, examples, possible interpretations, and questions requiring additional research.

Do not merge uncertain claims with verified information.

6. Publishing

Generate Book Title Directions

My book is about [topic].

The intended reader is [audience].

The primary promise is [promise].

Generate 20 title directions across five categories:

- direct and practical
- authority-driven
- curiosity-driven
- benefit-oriented
- distinctive or unconventional

Avoid cliches and titles that sound interchangeable with hundreds of existing books.

Explain the positioning behind the strongest five options.

Write a Book Description

Help me draft a sales description for this book.

Title: [title]

Audience: [audience]

Main problem or desire: [problem]

Book promise: [promise]

Key benefits: [benefits]

Write a compelling description that clearly communicates who the book is for and why it matters.

Avoid exaggerated claims, generic hype, and phrases such as "transform your life" unless genuinely justified.

Generate Metadata Ideas

Help me brainstorm metadata for a book about [topic].

Audience: [audience]

Book description: [description]

Generate relevant reader search phrases, keyword themes, possible category directions, and related topics readers may search for.

Do not keyword-stuff. Focus on phrases a real reader might realistically use while searching or browsing.

7. Book Marketing

Build a 90-Day Book Marketing Plan

Create a practical 90-day marketing plan for this book.

Book: [title/topic]

Audience: [audience]

Current platform: [email list, website, social media, etc.]

Available weekly time: [hours]

Budget: [budget]

Primary goal: [sales, reviews, email growth, visibility, etc.]

Build a realistic plan divided into preparation, launch or promotional period, and follow-through.

Prioritize actions that can realistically be sustained with the time and budget available.

Generate Social Content Ideas

Generate 30 social media post ideas for an author whose book is about [topic].

Audience: [audience]

Do not make every post promotional.

Divide the ideas among education, behind-the-scenes, reader questions, stories, book-related insights, and direct promotion.

Each idea should be specific enough that I could immediately turn it into a post.

Build an Email Sequence

Create an email sequence for [launch, reader magnet, welcome series, review request, etc.].

Audience: [audience]

Goal: [goal]

Number of emails: [number]

For each email, provide purpose, subject line ideas, main message, and call to action.

Keep the sequence conversational and useful. Avoid manipulative urgency and excessive promotional language.

A Simple Prompt Framework You Can Reuse

ROLE	Who should the AI act like?
CONTEXT	What does it need to understand?
TASK	What exactly should it do?
CONSTRAINTS	What should it avoid?
QUALITY STANDARD	What would make the result good?

Example

Act as a developmental editor.

I am writing a practical nonfiction book for first-time managers.

Review the chapter below and identify problems with organization, repetition, unclear explanations, and missing steps.

Do not rewrite the chapter.

Prioritize the five issues that would have the greatest effect on reader understanding and explain why each one matters.

Do Not Treat the First Response as the Final Answer

The conversation after the first prompt is often where the best work happens. If the output is too generic, too promotional, too formal, or focused on the wrong thing, say so directly and ask for a fundamentally different approach.

Useful Follow-Up Instructions

These ideas are too generic. Make them more specific to experienced nonfiction authors.

The tone is too promotional. Rewrite it in a practical, understated voice.

You focused too much on writing speed. I care more about accuracy and quality control.

Give me three fundamentally different approaches rather than variations of the same idea.

Use AI as a Collaborator, Not an Authority

AI can help you brainstorm, organize, compare, summarize, challenge, draft, and revise. You still need to decide whether an idea is worth pursuing, whether a sentence sounds like you, whether a source is credible, whether a fact is correct, and whether the finished book deserves to be published.

Ready to go deeper?

Explore Write Books Better courses on prompting, writing, editing, publishing, author branding, and book marketing.