Prompt Surgery Gone Wrong

Ever wonder why ChatGPT sometimes gives weird, off-target, or flatout unhelpful answers? Usually, the culprit isn't the AI - it's the *prompt*. In this activity, you'll perform a **Prompt Autopsy**: dissect a weak prompt to see what went wrong, then rebuild it step by step into something clear, fair, and effective. You'll write three refined versions, each better than the last, and explain how your changes sharpen the focus and remove confusion or bias. Think like a scientist, write like a teacher, and edit like a pro.



The Original "Bad" Prompt - (Your teacher may assign one, or you can invent your own.)

Example: "Write about why dogs are better than cats."

Stage 1 - The Diagnosis - What's wrong with this prompt?

Is it vague, unfair, confusing, or missing context? Identify at least two weaknesses below.

1.

2.

Stage 2 - The First Fix - Rewrite the prompt to make it a little clearer and more neutral, but don't worry if it's not perfect yet.

Revised Prompt (Version 1):

Why this is better:

Stage 3 - The Precision Edit - Now refine your prompt again - focus on clarity, fairness, and focus. Ask yourself: *What exactly do I want the AI (or writer) to do?*

Revised Prompt (Version 2):

What improved here:

Stage 4 - The Final Form - One last rewrite - aim for the most thoughtful, balanced, and specific version possible. Imagine you're giving it to a world-class expert and want a stellar answer.

Final Prompt (Version 3):

Why is this the best version yet?:

