

## Prompt Engineering Basics - Part 1

### Role: The First Building Block

#### What is a Role in Prompt Engineering?

- Definition: Telling the AI what expert role to assume
- Purpose: Helps the AI understand how to frame its response
- Think of it as: Choosing which expert to ask for help

#### Why Role Matters

- Different experts approach problems differently
- Establishes the knowledge base and perspective
- Sets expectations for the type of response
- Creates focus and relevance

#### Examples of Effective Roles

- "As a math teacher..."
- "As a career counselor..."
- "As a nutrition expert..."
- "As a fiction writer..."
- "As a historical researcher..."

#### Before & After Examples

##### Without Role:

Explain trigonometry.

##### With Role:

As a math teacher who specializes in making complex concepts simple, explain trigonometry.

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#### Key Tips for Choosing Roles

1. Match the role to your specific needs
2. Be specific about expertise (not just "expert" but what kind)
3. Consider using roles familiar to students (teacher, coach, friend)
4. Different roles can yield different perspectives on the same topic

#### Common Role Categories

- Educational roles (teacher, tutor, professor)
- Advisory roles (counselor, coach, mentor)
- Technical roles (engineer, programmer, scientist)
- Creative roles (writer, storyteller, artist)
- Analytical roles (researcher, analyst, critic)

#### Remember

- The role you choose shapes the entire response
- Just like you'd go to different experts for different problems
- Without a role, the AI will take a general approach
- Role is just the first step - it works best when combined with Context