On Effective Prompting of Generative AI…

1. **Be clear and specific**. Clearly state your question or request to ensure that the AI understands what you're looking for. Providing context or background information can also help improve the quality of the response.
   a. Good example: "What are some engaging activities I can use to teach middle school students about the water cycle?"
   b. Poor example: "How do I teach the water cycle?"
2. **Keep it concise**. While it's essential to provide relevant information, avoid making your prompts overly lengthy or complex. A concise and focused question will generally yield better results.
   a. Good example: "Suggest three strategies for improving reading comprehension in high school students."
   b. Poor example: "I need help coming up with ideas for teaching reading comprehension to students because I've been struggling to find methods that work well, and I'm not sure what to do."
3. **Define the format**. If you have a specific format in mind for the answer, such as a list or a paragraph, mention it in your prompt. This will help guide the AI in providing a response that meets your expectations.
   a. Good example: "Please provide a brief paragraph on the importance of teaching critical thinking skills in the classroom." or "Please act as a university literature professor and suggest several ways a student who loves to read can explore new genres of literature."
   b. Poor example: "Why is it important to teach critical thinking skills?"
4. **Request Step-by-Step or Point-by-Point Answers**. For complex questions or topics, asking the AI to provide a step-by-step guide or a list of key points can help you get a more structured and comprehensive response.
   a. Good example: "List the steps to create a lesson plan for teaching elementary students about photosynthesis."
   b. Poor example: "How do I make a lesson plan for photosynthesis?"
5. **Be Explicit about the Perspective or Tone**. If you want the AI to adopt a particular perspective or tone (e.g., formal, informal, humorous), mention it in your prompt to guide the response.
   a. Good example: "Write a humorous and engaging introduction to a lesson on Shakespeare for high school students."
   b. Poor example: "Write an introduction to a lesson on Shakespeare."
6. **Limit Answer Length, if Necessary**. If you need a concise response, you can specify a word or sentence limit in your prompt to encourage the AI to provide a brief and focused answer.
   a. Good example: "In two sentences, explain the main goal of teaching phonics to young learners." or "Give me 10 examples of activities to teach phonic to young learners."
   b. Poor example: "What's the goal of teaching phonics?" or "How do I teach phonics?"
7. **Iterate**. Don't be afraid to rephrase or tweak your prompt if the AI doesn't provide the desired response on the first try. Experimenting with different approaches can help you discover the most effective way to communicate your query.
   a. Poor initial prompt: "What's the best way to teach math?"
   b. Improved prompt: "What are some effective methods for teaching algebra to high school students?"