**Activity 4.1: Prompt Battle Workshop – The Iteration Challenge**

**Duration & Format**  
**Duration:** 15 minutes | **Format:** Small Groups or Pairs (2–4 participants)  
**Objective:** Compete to produce the *best-quality AI output* for a shared professional task through strategic prompt design, testing, and iterative refinement.

**Purpose**

This exercise helps participants internalize one of the most important lessons in AI collaboration: **your first prompt is rarely your best**.  
By engaging in a friendly “Prompt Battle,” teams experience how deliberate iteration — refining structure, role, and context — directly improves the clarity, accuracy, and usefulness of AI outputs.

**Learning Outcomes**

Participants will be able to:  
• Apply iterative thinking to continuously improve prompt quality and outcomes.  
• Compare how wording, tone, and structure affect AI responses.  
• Collaborate and justify their design choices based on real performance differences.  
• Recognize that *clearer communication creates better AI collaboration.*

**Materials Needed**

* Access to a Generative AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Copilot)
* A shared document or physical paper to record prompt versions and outputs
* A facilitator or judge to assess clarity, effectiveness, and tone
* One shared **Scenario Task** for all teams (choose from below)

**Scenario Task Options (Choose One for All Teams)**

Each group will use **the same scenario** — the competition lies in crafting *the most effective prompt* to complete it.

1. **Internal Communication** – Draft a short company-wide announcement introducing a new “Flexible Work Hours” policy.
2. **Client Outreach** – Write a professional email to a potential client summarizing your firm’s new service offering.
3. **Knowledge Synthesis** – Summarise a 2-page technical report into a brief for a non-technical executive.
4. **Marketing Copy** – Create three compelling social media captions to promote a sustainability initiative.

**Instructions: The Prompt Battle Process**

| **Step** | **Action** | **Focus & Goal** | **Time** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Step 1 – Round 1: Draft & Run** | Each group writes an *initial prompt* to complete the chosen task and runs it through the AI tool. | This is your “first draft.” Don’t overthink it. | 3 min |
| **Step 2 – Round 2: Diagnose & Refine** | Review the AI’s output. Identify weaknesses (tone, clarity, missing info). Apply advanced techniques — **Role**, **Context**, **Instruction**, **Format** — to improve it. | This is your *refined prompt*. | 4 min |
| **Step 3 – Round 3: Test & Compare** | Run the improved prompt and compare the two outputs side by side. Note specific changes that made the output stronger or weaker. | Prepare for the battle showcase. | 3 min |
| **Step 4 – The Battle Showcase** | Each team shares their *best prompt* and *AI output*. The facilitator (or peers) vote on which version best meets the professional brief based on clarity, tone, and completeness. | Optional “crowd vote” format. | 3–5 min |

**Facilitator Judging Criteria**

Encourage constructive debate — this is a friendly contest of communication quality, not creativity alone.  
Judge or peer-vote based on:

1. **Clarity:** Is the task clearly and specifically defined?
2. **Relevance:** Does the AI’s response meet the professional purpose?
3. **Tone:** Is the style appropriate for the target audience?
4. **Structure:** Is the prompt logically organized and easy for AI to follow?

**Reflective & Discussion Questions**

1. What were the most impactful changes you made between the first and final prompt — and why?
2. Which refinement technique (Role, Context, Instruction, Format) had the greatest effect on quality?
3. Did any team achieve surprisingly strong results from a simple prompt — why might that be?
4. How could you apply this iterative prompt-refinement mindset to your daily work tasks?

**Facilitator Tips & Key Takeaway**

* **Encourage transparency:** Have teams read both versions of their prompt — it reinforces how iteration improves outcomes.
* **Foster friendly rivalry:** Applaud clever refinements or unexpected phrasing wins.
* **Connect to workplace reality:** Emphasize that “Prompt Battles” mirror real-world iteration — good AI collaboration is a process, not a one-shot command.

**Key Takeaway:**

“The best AI results don’t come from a single clever prompt — they come from clear thinking, structured feedback, and continuous refinement.”