

A-i Art Prompting for Rapid Storyboarding

Quandamooka Film Festival

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Part 1: Emotional Expression Prompt Formula

Below is a set of formula templates and comprehensive tables that describe how to configure human emotional expressions across multiple modalities: facial muscle configurations, eye behavior, vocal tone and volume, body posture, and motion speed. We'll break emotions down into types, define

intensity scales, and map out how each parameter changes accordingly. This can serve as a reference when directing actors (real or virtual), animating characters, or guiding AI-driven facial and voice models.

General Formula:

Express [Emotion] at [Intensity Level], configuring:

- Facial Muscles: [Brow Position], [Eye Shape/Movement], [Mouth Shape], [Cheek Tension]
- Eye Details: [Gaze Direction], [Blink Rate], [Pupil Dilation]
- Voice/Tone: [Pitch], [Volume], [Pace], [Articulation Clarity]
- Body/Movement: [Posture], [Gesture Speed], [Limb Tension], [Head Movement]

Optional Additions:

- Add cultural or situational nuance (e.g., “In a calm conversation setting”).
- Combine multiple emotions (e.g., “blend mild surprise with underlying sadness”).
- Adjust for environmental factors (e.g., “whispering in a quiet room” vs. “shouting across a busy street”).

Key Emotional Categories & Intensities

Emotion Categories:

Category	Examples
Positive	Happiness, Amusement, Pride, Love, Relief
Negative	Sadness, Anger, Fear, Disgust, Shame, Guilt
Surprise/Curiosity	Surprise, Interest, Confusion, Wonder
Neutral/Subtle	Calm, Contemplative, Neutral, Slight Interest

Intensity Scale (1-5)

Level	Description
1	Very subtle, barely noticeable
2	Mild, understated
3	Moderate, clearly present
4	Strong, easily detected, dominant
5	Intense, overt, highly expressive

Facial Muscles and Features

Brow Position

Emotion (General)	Low Intensity	High Intensity
Happiness/Amusement	Slightly raised	Highly raised, slightly arched
Sadness	Slight downward tilt	Deeply furrowed, inner brows drawn
Anger	Slight furrow	Deep furrow, brows drawn together
Fear/Surprise	Slight lift	High, sharply raised brows
Disgust	Slight inner pinch	Strong pinch between brows, wrinkles
Neutral/Calm	Relaxed, minimal change	Relaxed, no tension

Eye Shape/Movement

Emotion	Low Intensity	High Intensity
Happiness	Gentle eye crinkle	Pronounced crow's feet, bright gaze
Sadness	Slight droop in eyelids	Eyes moist, lids heavy, gaze downward
Anger	Slight narrowing	Intensely narrowed, glaring focus
Fear/Surprise	Slightly widened	Fully widened, whites visible
Disgust	Slight squint	Eyes partially closed, tense
Interest/Curiosity	Normal blink rate	Eyes slightly widened, focused gaze
Neutral/Calm	Normal relaxed shape	Normal, even blinking

Mouth Shape

Emotion	Low Intensity	High Intensity
Happiness	Subtle smile, lips relaxed	Broad smile, raised cheeks, visible teeth
Sadness	Slight downward corners	Quivering lips, corners deeply turned down
Anger	Lips pressed together	Snarl, teeth bared or lips curled
Fear	Slightly parted, tense	Jaw slack, mouth open in silent gasp
Surprise	Slight parting	Fully open "O" shape
Disgust	Mild curl of upper lip	Strong lip curl, maybe a sneer
Neutral/Calm	Neutral line	Slightly relaxed, no tension

Cheek Tension

Intensity	Description
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Low	Barely noticeable changes in cheeks
Moderate	Slight lift for happiness, or hollows for sadness
High	Pronounced cheek raising (smile), deep hollows (sad), tense cheeks (anger)

Eye Details

Gaze Direction

Emotion	Gaze
Happiness/Love	Direct, warm eye contact
Sadness	Downward, avoiding direct contact
Anger	Intense, locked onto subject
Fear	Rapidly darting, looking around
Surprise	Directly at object of surprise
Disgust	Averted, looking slightly away
Curiosity	Focused on subject, steady
Neutral	Straight ahead, at ease

Blink Rate

Intensity	Description
Low	Less frequent (focus, anger)
Normal	Standard blink rate
High	Frequent blinking (nervousness, fear)

Pupil Dilation

Emotion	Tendency
Positive (happy, love)	Mild dilation
Negative (fear, anger)	Can dilate with fear, constrict with anger
Surprise/Interest	Dilation (interest)
Neutral	Normal pupil size

Voice/Tone Configuration

Pitch

Emotion	Pitch Variation
Happiness/Love	Slightly higher than normal
Sadness	Lower, softer pitch
Anger	Often lower or harsher
Fear	Slightly higher, tense
Surprise	Higher spike on onset
Disgust	Flat or lower, nasal
Neutral	Medium, stable pitch

Volume

Intensity	Volume Level
Low (Subtle)	Soft, quiet
Moderate	Normal speaking volume
High (Intense)	Loud, raised voice, possibly shouting (anger) or exclaiming (surprise)

Pace

Emotion	Speaking Rate
Happiness/Excitement	Slightly faster, energetic
Sadness	Slower, drawn out
Anger	Variable: can be rapid and clipped or slow and threatening
Fear	Faster, more erratic
Surprise	Sudden pauses, staccato
Disgust	Measured, possibly slower
Neutral/Calm	Even, steady pace

Articulation Clarity

Emotion	Description
Positive	Clear, crisp articulation
Negative	Muffled (sad), clipped (anger), shaky (fear)
Surprise	Breathier, occasional stutters
Neutral	Even, well-enunciated

Body/Movement Configuration

Posture

Emotion	Typical Posture
Happiness	Upright, open chest, relaxed shoulders
Sadness	Slumped shoulders, slightly hunched
Anger	Tense, rigid spine, squared shoulders
Fear	Crouched, leaning away, defensive
Surprise	Straightened, slight recoil
Disgust	Leaning back slightly, recoiling
Curiosity	Leaning forward, engaged
Neutral	Balanced, relaxed posture

Gesture Speed (Motion Speed)

Intensity	Description
Low	Slow, deliberate movements (sadness)
Moderate	Natural speed (neutral, calm)
High	Rapid, jerky (fear, anger) or excitedly quick (joy)

Limb Tension

Emotion	Description
Happiness/Love	Relaxed, fluid gestures
Sadness	Low-energy, limp gestures
Anger	Tight fists, rigid arms
Fear	Hands trembling, arms close to body
Surprise	Sudden jerks or flinches
Disgust	Slight pushing away motion
Neutral	Resting hands, minimal tension

Head Movement

Emotion	Description
Happiness/Love	Gentle nods, head slightly tilted kindly
Sadness	Head lowered, slow shakes
Anger	Head thrust forward, sharp nods or shakes

Fear	Quick turns, looking over shoulder
Surprise	Sudden head jerk backward or up
Disgust	Head pulled back, chin raised slightly
Curiosity	Head tilted to side, leaning in
Neutral	Minimal movement, steady head position

Example Prompt Using the Formula

Example:

“Express **moderate happiness (Intensity 3)** by configuring facial muscles with **slightly raised brows, gentle crow’s feet around the eyes, and a broad smile revealing teeth**. Eyes should maintain **direct, warm contact with normal blink rate and mild pupil dilation**. Voice: **slightly higher pitch, normal volume, and a slightly faster pace with clear articulation**. Body: **upright posture, relaxed shoulders, fluid hand gestures, and a gentle nodding head motion**. Render this expression with **4K detail and smooth animation**.”

Another Example (Fear at High Intensity):

“Express **fear at Intensity 5**: Facial muscles show **wide eyes, deeply raised brows, and a slightly open mouth with tense lips**. Eyes **dart rapidly, blink frequently, and pupils dilate**. Voice: **pitch slightly higher than normal, volume low but tense, faster pace, and words slightly stuttered**. Body: **crouched posture, arms drawn in close, trembling hands, head turning quickly as if checking surroundings**. Present this in **high-definition close-up for maximum detail**.”

By referencing these tables, one can precisely direct the configuration of a character’s expression—from subtle facial muscle twitches to the pitch and pace of their voice, and even their posture and gestures. This systematic approach allows for nuanced and consistent emotional portrayals in animation, virtual production, or AI-driven avatar systems.

Part 2: Referencing Favorite Films & Scenes

Below is a prompt formula and supporting tables designed to incorporate references to favorite films and specific scenes, helping a director ideate with the AI by evoking familiar cinematic cues. This structure allows the user to reference iconic movies, scenes, cinematography, and directorial choices to guide the AI in generating images, storyboards, or even short videos that carry the essence of these inspirations.

General Prompt Formula:

Create [Type of Content] inspired by [Film Reference(s)], capturing [Cinematic Elements/Styles] from [Specific Scene Description], while incorporating [Subject/Setting], [Details/Props], [Emotional Tone], and rendered with [Technical Quality/Format].

Breakdown of Prompt Components

Prompt Part	Description	Example
Type of Content	What you're asking the AI to produce: image, storyboard, or short clip.	"a storyboard frame", "a 15-second video"
Film Reference(s)	The movie(s) or directors the user admires.	"inspired by scenes from 'Ten Canoes (2006)' and 'Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002)'"
Cinematic Elements/Styles	The stylistic cues taken from the reference scene(s).	"the intimate close-ups and soft natural lighting"
Specific Scene Description	Which scene in particular and what made it special.	"the dusk campfire scene where characters share stories"
Subject/Setting	The new scenario's own subject and place.	"a young filmmaker at a beachside festival"
Details/Props	Additional elements to add authenticity.	"traditional woven mats, delicate shell necklaces"
Emotional Tone	The mood or feeling.	"evoking a sense of cultural pride and warmth"
Technical Quality/Format	Technical specifications, format, resolution, etc.	"in 4K resolution, cinematic aspect ratio, film-grain texture"

Example Option Tables for Film References

Film Reference(s)

Category	Examples
Australian Films	"Ten Canoes (2006)", "Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002)", "Samson and Delilah (2009)"
International Classics	"the sweeping desert visuals of 'Lawrence of Arabia'", "the neon-lit intimacy of 'Lost in Translation'"
Directors	"in the style of Warwick Thornton's cinematography"

Cinematic Elements/Styles

Aspect	Examples
Cinematography	“gentle handheld camera work”, “long tracking shots”
Lighting Style	“low-key lighting with soft contrast”, “warm campfire glow”
Color Grading	“subtle, earthy tones reminiscent of 1970s film stock”
Framing & Composition	“centered close-ups that highlight facial expressions”, “wide shots capturing vast landscapes”

Specific Scene Description

Aspect	Examples
Iconic Scene Ref	“the opening scene where silhouettes dance against twilight”, “the quiet moment by the river at dusk”
Tonal Qualities	“the tension-filled standoff in a silent clearing”, “the heartfelt farewell under a crimson sunset”

Subject/Setting (New scenario)

Option Type	Examples
Subject	“a young local filmmaker capturing stories”
Setting	“on Minjerribah’s coastline during festival preparations”

Details/Props

Option Type	Examples
Cultural Items	“traditional carved wooden tools”, “woven baskets”
Environmental	“driftwood logs placed around a campfire”, “shell art installations”

Emotional Tone

Mood	Examples
Warm & Uplifting	“evoking belonging and pride”
Reflective	“a quiet sense of respectful curiosity”
Hopeful	“inspiring unity and forward-looking optimism”

Technical Quality/Format

Parameter	Examples
Resolution	“4K resolution, ultra-detailed”

Style	“slight film grain and natural soundscape”
Format	“cinematic 2.35:1 aspect ratio”
Duration (if video)	“20-second continuous shot”

Example Combined Prompts

Image Example:

“Create a single storyboard frame inspired by scenes from ‘Ten Canoes (2006)’, capturing the warm, natural lighting and intimate close-ups from the dusk campfire storytelling scene. Show a young filmmaker at a seaside festival on Minjerribah, surrounded by woven mats and carved wooden props, evoking a sense of cultural pride. Render this in 4K resolution with a subtle film grain.”

Video Example:

“Generate a 20-second video sequence inspired by ‘Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002)’—focus on the soft, natural lighting and careful framing similar to the journey scenes across arid landscapes. Translate that feel into a coastal setting on Minjerribah, featuring a local storyteller guiding visitors by torchlight. Incorporate delicate shell necklaces and woven mats, conveying reverence and connection. Present it with warm earthy tones, a gentle handheld camera movement, and a cinematic aspect ratio in crisp 4K.”

Another Variation (Multiple Films):

“Create a concept image inspired by the neon-lit intimacy of ‘Lost in Translation’ and the warm sunset hues of ‘Ten Canoes.’ Combine the quiet mood from a late-evening conversation scene in ‘Lost in Translation’ with the grounded, community-oriented gathering from ‘Ten Canoes.’ Show a group of local artisans preparing a nighttime beach performance on Minjerribah, decorated with handcrafted shell ornaments, evoking gentle curiosity and cultural exchange. Render this in a wide-angle, low-light scenario with subtle film grain and a cinematic color grade at ultra-high definition.”

By using these references to films and scenes the director admires, the AI can anchor its creative output in recognizable cinematic grammar. The formulas and tables provide a flexible toolkit to mix and match cinematic influences, technical qualities, and narrative elements, ensuring that the final AI-generated visuals carry the essence of the director’s favorite cinematic moments.

Part 3: Prompt Formula Templates

Below is a structured set of prompt formula templates and corresponding option tables designed for generating high-quality AI outputs across three key modalities: AI Image Generation, AI Text-to-Video,

and AI Image-to-Video. Each formula is presented as a “fill-in-the-blanks” structure, along with tables that suggest common option categories, stylistic parameters, and control variables. These can be mixed and matched to guide AI models in producing precise and contextually rich outputs.

AI Image Generation Prompt Formula

General Prompt Formula:

[Subject/Character/Theme] in [Setting/Location] with [Art Style/Medium] and [Lighting/Time of Day], framed as [Camera Angle/Composition], featuring [Color Palette/Atmosphere], emphasizing [Details/Props] and [Emotional Tone/Mood], with quality set to [Resolution/Quality Tags].

Breakdown of Prompt Components

Prompt Part	Description	Example
Subject/Character/Theme	The main focus or entity. Could be a person, an animal, a cultural scene, an object, or a concept.	“a young Quandamooka storyteller”
Setting/Location	The environment or background context.	“on a beach at Minjerribah”
Art Style/Medium	The aesthetic approach or medium emulation.	“in a watercolor illustration style”
Lighting/Time of Day	Defines lighting conditions and atmosphere.	“illuminated by soft morning light”
Camera Angle/Composition	Influences how the subject is framed.	“framed in a wide-angle shot from a low perspective”
Color Palette/Atmosphere	The dominant colors or general feel of the scene.	“with a pastel and earthy color palette”
Details/Props	Additional elements that add narrative detail.	“surrounded by traditional woven baskets”
Emotional Tone/Mood	The emotional quality or feeling.	“evoking a sense of gentle curiosity”
Resolution/Quality Tags	Technical quality parameters.	“8K resolution, ultra-detailed, photorealistic”

Example Options Tables for Each Part

Subject/Character/Theme (Choose 1+)

Option Type	Examples
People	“an elderly cultural advisor”, “a local artisan”
Animals	“a dolphin swimming by the shore”
Abstract	“an aura of peaceful wisdom”
Cultural	“a Quandamooka dancer performing ceremony”

Setting/Location (Choose 1+)

Option Type	Examples
Natural	“among tall eucalyptus trees”, “on a dune overlooking the ocean”
Built	“inside a community hall decorated for festival”
Mixed	“in a garden by the shoreline”

Art Style/Medium (Choose 1)

Option Type	Examples
Traditional	“oil painting”, “watercolor illustration”
Digital	“3D render”, “vector art”
Cinematic	“cinematic ultra-realistic photography”

Lighting/Time of Day (Choose 1)

Option Type	Examples
Daylight	“in soft morning light”, “at golden hour”
Night & Ambient	“under moonlight”, “soft lantern glow”

Camera Angle/Composition (Choose 1+)

Option Type	Examples
Angles	“low angle shot”, “bird’s-eye view”
Composition	“rule of thirds”, “centered portrait”

Color Palette/Atmosphere (Choose 1+)

Option Type	Examples
Colorful	“vibrant tropical hues”

Muted	“soft pastel tones”
Earthy	“rich browns and greens”

Details/Props (Choose 1+)

Option Type	Examples
Cultural Items	“traditional baskets”, “hand-carved wooden sculptures”
Environmental	“shells scattered on the sand”, “native flora”

Emotional Tone/Mood (Choose 1)

Option Type	Examples
Mood	“evoking gentle curiosity”, “exuding quiet pride”

Resolution/Quality Tags (Combine as needed)

Parameter	Examples
Resolution	“8K resolution”, “ultra-high definition”
Quality	“ultra-detailed”, “photorealistic”
Precision	“sharp focus”, “hyperreal clarity”

AI Text-to-Video Prompt Formula

General Prompt Formula:

Create a [Duration]-second video depicting [Subject/Action] in [Setting/Environment], filmed in [Cinematic Style/Camera Movement] with [Lighting Conditions], featuring [Background Elements/Props] and [Emotional Tone], with [Color Grading/Visual Style], and ensure [Resolution/Frame Rate/Quality].

Breakdown of Prompt Components

Prompt Part	Description	Example
Duration	Length of the video clip in seconds.	“30-second video”
Subject/Action	Main entity and what they are doing.	“a young filmmaker walking along the beach”

Setting/Environment	Where the action takes place.	“on Minjerribah’s shoreline at dawn”
Cinematic Style/Camera Movement	Film style and camera behavior.	“smooth tracking shot, cinematic wide-screen”
Lighting Conditions	Lighting style.	“soft golden hour lighting”
Background Elements/Props	Additional scene details.	“decorative flags fluttering in the breeze”
Emotional Tone	Mood or feeling the video conveys.	“conveying hope and unity”
Color Grading/Visual Style	Post-production look or color aesthetic.	“subtle warm color grading”
Resolution/Frame Rate/Quality	Technical specifications for clarity.	“4K at 60fps, ultra-high quality”

Example Options Tables

Duration

Option	Examples
Short	“10-second”
Medium	“30-second”
Long	“60-second”

Subject/Action

Option Type	Examples
Person Action	“a local elder telling a story”
Activity	“children performing a dance”
Object Focus	“camera panning over handcrafted art”

Setting/Environment

Option Type	Examples
Natural	“on a coral beach at sunrise”
Cultural	“inside a community hall”
Mixed	“a coastal market stall at dusk”

Cinematic Style/Camera Movement

Option Type	Examples
Style	“documentary style”, “cinematic drama”
Movement	“steady tracking shot”, “slow dolly-in”

Lighting Conditions

Option	Examples
Natural	“soft morning light”
Dramatic	“high-contrast evening glow”

Background Elements/Props

Option Type	Examples
Cultural	“traditional woven mats”
Environmental	“seabirds circling overhead”

Emotional Tone

Option	Examples
Mood	“conveying hope”, “inspiring pride”

Color Grading/Visual Style

Option	Examples
Color Grading	“warm, earthy tones”
Visual Style	“soft vintage aesthetic”

Resolution/Frame Rate/Quality

Parameter	Examples
Resolution	“4K resolution”
Frame Rate	“60fps for smooth motion”
Quality	“ultra-high detail, crisp image”

AI Image-to-Video Prompt Formula

General Prompt Formula:

Transform the given [Source Image/Art Style] into a [Duration]-second video sequence that transitions through [Visual Changes/Transitions] in [Setting/Context], enhanced by [Cinematic Effects/Camera Movements], maintaining [Emotional Tone/Atmosphere] and [Quality Parameters].

Breakdown of Prompt Components

Prompt Part	Description	Example
Source Image/Art Style	Starting point image or style reference.	“the provided watercolor portrait”
Duration	Length of the video sequence.	“15-second animation”
Visual Changes/Transitions	How the image evolves over time.	“subtle zooming in and color shifts”
Setting/Context	The environment or narrative backdrop introduced.	“as if moving through a coastal forest”
Cinematic Effects/Camera Movements	Film-like enhancements.	“gentle parallax effect, smooth pan”
Emotional Tone/Atmosphere	The feeling conveyed.	“evoking serenity and cultural reverence”
Quality Parameters	Technical specs, clarity, resolution.	“4K resolution, vivid details”

Example Options Tables

Source Image/Art Style

Option Type	Examples
Provided Art	“the supplied hand-drawn poster”
Style Ref	“an image in a charcoal sketch style”

Duration

Option	Examples
Short	“10-second loop”
Medium	“15-second clip”
Long	“30-second short film”

Visual Changes/Transitions

Option Type	Examples
Movement	“gradual zoom-in”, “slow rotation”
Color Shift	“fading from sepia to full color”
Morphing	“transforming brush strokes into real scenery”

Setting/Context

Option Type	Examples
Natural	“transitioning into a lush rainforest”
Cultural	“revealing a coastal festival scene”

Cinematic Effects/Camera Movements

Option	Examples
Effects	“cinematic parallax layers”
Movement	“smooth horizontal pan across scene”

Emotional Tone/Atmosphere

Option	Examples
Mood	“evoking calm reverence”, “inspiring unity”

Quality Parameters

Parameter	Examples
Resolution	“4K ultra HD”
Detail	“sharp focus, vivid colors”

Combining The Prompt Formulas

To build a prompt for a specific project scenario, pick from the tables and fill in the formula. For example:

AI Image Generation Example Prompt:

“A young Quandamooka storyteller in a coastal mangrove setting, in watercolor illustration style, illuminated by soft morning light, framed in a low angle shot, featuring warm earthy tones, surrounded by traditional woven baskets, evoking gentle curiosity, with 8K resolution, ultra-detailed, photorealistic quality.”

AI Text-to-Video Example Prompt:

“Create a **30-second** video depicting a **local elder telling a story** in a **community hall by the shore**, filmed in **cinematic documentary style with a slow dolly-in**, under **soft golden hour lighting**, featuring **shells and woven mats** in the background, conveying **hope and unity**, with **warm color grading**, at **4K 60fps, ultra-high quality**.”

AI Image-to-Video Example Prompt:

“Transform the **provided watercolor portrait** into a **15-second animation** that applies a **gentle zoom-in and a fade from sepia to color**, set against a **coastal festival scene**, with a **subtle parallax effect and smooth pan**, evoking **cultural reverence**, and maintaining **4K resolution, vivid details** throughout.”

These prompt formulas and tables provide a flexible framework to ensure high-quality, context-rich outputs. They can be adapted, mixed, and matched according to the creative direction, medium, and desired final look and feel.