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Incremental Task Building / Contextual Carry-over

- **Intent:** To build complex outputs or analyses progressively by instructing the LLM to use the results or context from previous interactions within the same session.
- **Problem:** Complex projects often require multiple steps (e.g., data collection then analysis). Starting each step from scratch is inefficient and loses valuable context.
- **Solution:** Explicitly instruct the LLM to base its current task on the information provided or generated earlier in the conversation:
 - “You should mostly base your writing with information already in the previous conversation in this thread.”
 - This assumes the LLM has access to the conversation history.
- **Applicability:** Useful for multi-stage workflows where later stages depend on the output of earlier ones, such as data gathering followed by analysis, drafting followed by revision, or brainstorming followed by structuring. Seen clearly in Prompt 3 referencing Prompt 2’s likely output.

Contextual Grounding / Resource Provision

- **Intent:** To provide the LLM with necessary background information, definitions, rules, or data sources required to understand the task context and execute it correctly.
- **Problem:** The LLM may lack specific domain knowledge, understanding of proprietary frameworks (like DSI), or access to required reference materials, leading to errors or inability to complete the task.
- **Solution:** Provide or point to essential context and resources:
 - Upload relevant documents (e.g., ideological base, previous reports, methodology guides, framework definitions).
 - Clearly state the purpose and background of specific concepts or document types (e.g., explaining Neican).
 - Specify which resources are for content, style, or process.
 - Define key terms or frameworks (e.g., DSI definition).
- **Applicability:** Use whenever the task relies on specific knowledge, frameworks, or data not readily available in the LLM’s general training data, or when specific rules or guidelines (like a writing guide) must be followed. Seen in all three prompts.

Output Constraint / Formatting Specification

- **Intent:** To precisely control the nature and format of the LLM’s output by setting explicit rules about what to include, what to exclude, and how it should be presented.

- **Problem:** LLMs often add conversational filler, summarize when direct information is needed, use inconsistent formatting, or include unwanted elements.
- **Solution:** State clear constraints on the output:
 - Specify the output language (e.g., “should be written in Chinese”).
 - Define content rules (e.g., “DO NOT try to summarize... just list direct information,” “almost ONLY use direct quotes,” “put all information sources at the end,” “DO NOT add link or footnote WITHIN”).
 - Specify output format (e.g., “Each information point as a bullet point,” “Generate output as a Word docx file, with proper footnotes and references”).
 - Mention length constraints if applicable (implied by “precise and succinct” and example study).
- **Applicability:** Essential when the output needs to meet strict formatting requirements for data processing, integration with other systems, or adherence to specific documentation standards. Crucial for tasks requiring verbatim extraction or specific citation methods. Seen strongly in all three prompts.

Persona Adoption

- **Intent:** To imbue the LLM with a specific role, perspective, belief system, or expertise, ensuring the output reflects a desired viewpoint, tone, and domain knowledge.
- **Problem:** The LLM’s default persona is often too neutral, generic, or lacks the specific biases, expertise, or background needed for a specialized task. The output might lack the required depth, tone, or alignment.
- **Solution:** Explicitly define the persona the LLM should adopt at the beginning of the prompt. Include details like:
 - Job title/Role (e.g., “Chinese professor,” “Academic researcher”).
 - Area of expertise (e.g., “international relations, geopolitics,” “digital sovereignty”).
 - Beliefs/Ideology (e.g., “patriot and Marxist,” “believe internationalism... fits national interest”).
 - Implicit context associated with the role (e.g., Neican writers understand sensitivity and audience).
- **Applicability:** Use when the output’s tone, perspective, level of formality, or specific knowledge base is critical and non-generic. Essential for tasks requiring specialized viewpoints (e.g., legal analysis, specific political commentary, creative writing in a character’s voice). Seen strongly in Prompt 1, and present in Prompts 2 & 3.

Prescribed Process / Guided Methodology

- **Intent:** To guide the LLM through a specific sequence of steps or a defined methodology to accomplish a complex task, ensuring thoroughness and adherence to a required workflow.
- **Problem:** For complex tasks involving research, analysis, and synthesis, the LLM might take shortcuts, miss crucial steps, or use a suboptimal approach, leading to incomplete or inaccurate results.
- **Solution:** Outline the specific steps or methodology the LLM must follow. This can include:
 - Numbered or bulleted instructions for sequential actions (e.g., “1) Read..., 2) Browse..., 3) Compose...”).
 - Specific types of information to gather or consider (e.g., “a) Other reports..., b) Background info..., c) China’s national interest...”).
 - Reference to external documents detailing the process (e.g., “follow the guidance of Section 4,” “follow Section 5 ‘Problem Orientation’,” “follow Section 6 ‘Data Collection Methodology’”).
 - Questions to answer during the process (e.g., Problem Orientation questions in Prompt 2).
- **Applicability:** Use for multi-step tasks like research synthesis, report generation, data analysis, complex problem-solving, or any task where the *how* is as important as the *what*. Seen clearly in all three prompts.

Structured Input / Task Decomposition

- **Intent:** To break down a complex request into smaller, manageable components or provide a clear framework for the LLM to structure its thinking and output.
- **Problem:** Vague or overly broad requests can lead to unfocused or irrelevant output. The LLM may struggle to understand the specific requirements or cover all necessary aspects.
- **Solution:** Provide structure within the input prompt itself:
 - Use predefined categories or indicators the LLM needs to address (e.g., “Based on each of 4 indicators of Dimension 1...”).
 - Provide guiding questions for each section or indicator (“Problem Orientation” in Prompt 2).
 - Define the key sections expected in the output (implicitly via the structure of the writing guide or examples).
- **Applicability:** Use when the task involves analyzing multiple facets of an issue, collecting information against specific criteria, or generating a report with predefined sections. Helps ensure all required components are addressed systematically. Seen clearly in Prompt 2, and implicitly in Prompts 1 & 3 via their referenced guides/examples.

Style Mimicry / Template Following

- **Intent:** To ensure the LLM’s output conforms to a specific stylistic or structural format by providing explicit examples or templates to emulate.
- **Problem:** Achieving consistent formatting, language style, tone, or document structure can be difficult. The LLM might generate output that is stylistically inappropriate or structurally incorrect.
- **Solution:** Provide concrete examples or references for the LLM to follow:
 - Refer to attached documents specifically for their structure and style (e.g., “You can study its structure and language style. NOTE: its content IS NOT relevant”).
 - Instruct the LLM to mimic the format of specific examples (e.g., “mimic the format of each indicator as they are in Document 2 and Document 3”).
 - Provide snippets of desired style within the prompt itself (less common in these examples but a valid technique).
- **Applicability:** Use when output structure, formatting (headings, citations, lists), tone, or language style needs to be highly specific and consistent, especially when matching existing document types or series. Seen strongly in Prompts 1 and 3.