

THE 5 THINGS AI NEEDS FROM YOU

A PRACTICAL STRUCTURED THINKING GUIDE



**Most AI inconsistency is not caused by the tool.
It is caused by missing structure.**

Three Principles of AI help explain why:



AI fills any undefined space in the work you give it.

AI naturally solves for missing information by making assumptions based on patterns. Whenever direction, context, or constraints are absent, AI attempts to complete the task using the most probable interpretation rather than waiting for clarification.



AI follows explicit direction, constraints, and operating rules.

AI operates within the boundaries established by the information it receives. It cannot infer intentions that have not been communicated, nor can it respond to requirements that were never provided.



If you don't decide how AI participates, it will.

Because AI is capable of performing increasingly agentic tasks, users must intentionally define the role AI should play. Without clear direction, AI will assume an appropriate role based on the nature of the request.

THE STRUCTURED THINKING CONTROL PANEL™

The Structured Thinking Control Panel™ provides five areas of direction you can use to put these principles into practice:

1		ROLE WHO SHOULD AI ACT LIKE?	Examples: Project Manager, Trainer, Executive Assistant, Data Analyst, Customer Support Lead	▶	<i>Without a role, AI assumes one.</i>
2		TASK WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU ASKING AI TO DO?	Weak: "Help me with this meeting." Stronger: "Create a structured agenda for a 30-minute project update meeting."	▶	<i>Specific tasks create more reliable outputs.</i>
3		CONTEXT WHAT INFORMATION DOES AI NEED?	Examples: audience, company goals, constraints, timeline, tone, previous decisions	▶	<i>Context is often the difference between generic output and useful output.</i>
4		OUTPUT WHAT SHOULD THE FINAL RESULT LOOK LIKE?	Examples: bullet list, email draft, action plan, summary, table, presentation outline	▶	<i>If you do not all text then not define the output, AI will choose one for you.</i>
5		EXECUTION HOW SHOULD AI APPROACH THE WORK?	Examples: ask clarifying questions first, prioritize speed over detail, focus on executive-level language, identify risks and gaps, provide step-by-step recommendations	▶	<i>Execution instructions shape how AI thinks through the task.</i>



OPERATIONAL LITERACY WITH AI

The organizations that gain the most value from AI will not simply be the ones using it the most. They will be the ones whose people can consistently **direct, evaluate, and oversee** AI with human judgment.

The Principles of AI and Structured Thinking tools are designed to help build that capability.