

Prompting Fable

— the cheat sheet

A lot of old prompting advice is backwards now. **Stop mapping the route. Name the destination:** the goal, why it matters, what done looks like, and what's off-limits.

HOW TO RUN IT

OPUS OR SONNET → run the skill; it writes the prompt → **FABLE 5** — paste it in and run at low or high effort.

THE FLIP

DELETE THIS · DO THAT

fig. 1

~~Step-by-step directions for how to work~~

→ **State the goal + how you'll judge success**

The steps you'd write for a weaker model make Fable's work worse.

~~"Think step by step, show your reasoning"~~

→ **Ask for the answer + the proof behind it**

Asking to see its private thinking can trip a safety rule — a different model answers instead.

~~Three paragraphs of formatting rules~~

→ **One sentence on what "good" means**

"Good enough that I could hand it to my accountant without explaining anything."

~~Easy tasks, to be safe~~

→ **Your hardest problem — it gets more useful as tasks get harder**

Easy tasks waste it. Give it the hard stuff.

~~A list of everything it's not allowed to do~~

→ **One line: do you want a check, or a fix?**

COPY-PASTE LINES

fig. 2

SAY WHY, NOT JUST WHAT

"I'm working on [larger task] for [who it's for]. They need [what the output enables]. With that in mind: [request]"

CHECK, DON'T FIX

"The deliverable is your assessment. Report findings and stop. Don't fix anything until I ask."

LET IT PLAN FIRST

"Scope this, ask me clarifying questions, then execute."

DEMAND RECEIPTS

"Before reporting progress, audit each claim against actual evidence. Only report work you can point to evidence for; if something isn't verified, say so."

FRESH-EYES CHECK

"When you think you're done, verify your work against the success criteria as if you were a skeptical reviewer seeing it for the first time."

RECOMMENDATION, NOT SURVEY

"If you're weighing a choice, give a recommendation, not an exhaustive survey."

GET THE SKILL

↓ DOWNLOAD THE ZIP

IN COWORK (CLAUDE.AI)

Settings → Capabilities → Skills → upload the zip, then describe your task.

IN CLAUDE CODE

Unzip it into `~/claude/skills`.

↗ GET IT ON GITHUB

Star & fork the repo to make it yours — or point Claude Code at the link to install and use it.

What didn't change: being clear, giving context, and showing examples still win. The one thing that flipped is the turn-by-turn instructions weaker models needed.