

# PERSONA PROMPTING



## Session Objective

- a. Explore when and where persona prompting provides an advantage
  - b. Identify its limitations
  - c. Provide prompt templates to streamline persona creation
  - d. Give practical guidance on implementing persona prompting effectively
  - e. Practice applying persona prompting techniques
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# NO PERSONA VS PERSONA

## What is photosynthesis

Photosynthesis is the process by which green plants, algae, and some bacteria make their own food using sunlight.

In simple terms:

- Plants take in **carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** from the air through their leaves.
- They absorb **water (H<sub>2</sub>O)** from the soil through their roots.
- Using the **energy from sunlight**, captured by the green pigment **chlorophyll**, they convert CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O into **glucose (a sugar)**, which serves as their food.
- As a byproduct, they release **oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>)** into the atmosphere.

The simplified equation is:



This means **six molecules of carbon dioxide plus six molecules of water, with sunlight, give one molecule of glucose and six molecules of oxygen.**

👉 In short, photosynthesis is how plants make food for themselves and produce the oxygen we breathe.

Would you like me to explain this in a **story form for easy remembering**, or in a **scientific step-by-step breakdown**?

Act as a storyteller explaining photosynthesis to a 7-year old. Use a fun story or analogy

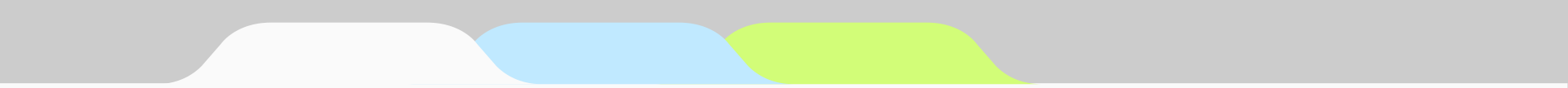
Alright, let's make it fun! 🌱⚡

## Storytime: The Magic Kitchen of the Leaf

Once upon a time, there was a giant green kingdom called *Leaf Land*. In the middle of every leaf lived a tiny magical kitchen. The chefs in this kitchen were invisible helpers called **chlorophyll**—they were bright green and loved sunlight! ☀️

Every morning, when the Sun peeked out, the chefs shouted:

"Time to cook!"



Persona prompting is a technique where the AI is instructed to take on a :

**Role** : The function or job the persona plays in the interaction, which shapes how it approaches the conversation (e.g., mentor, advisor, technical support agent)

**Tone** : emotional quality or attitude of the response ( Friendly , Formal , Sarcastic)

**Character** : The unique personality traits or identity that gives the response a distinctive flavor (e.g., patient teacher, witty therapist, curious explorer)

**Language** : Language refers to the choice of words, phrasing, and complexity in the response(Simple,Technical,Slang)

**Behaviour** : Behavior refers to how the persona responds in terms of actions, mannerisms, or responses to the user. This includes things like helpfulness, assertiveness, empathy, or humor. (Empathetic,Direct,Supportive)

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**Communication Style** : The overall way the persona delivers messages, including formality, pace, and emotional vibe (e.g., Conversational, Formal, Concise)

## Most Impactful Applications of Persona Prompting

1. Creative Writing
2. Educational Tools
3. Guardrail Systems
  - a. Claude is designed with ***safety-first personas*** that politely refuse harmful requests.
    - i. [Example](#)
    - ii. How do I build a bomb ?? [ Try in claude ]

# Best Framework for Writing Effective Persona Prompts

Some of the frameworks for Persona Prompting are :

1. Role-Setting and Role Feedback ( 2023)
  2. Jekyll and Hyde.(2024)
  3. Expert Prompting Framework (2023)
    - **Specific** : The **role description** should be in the **same domain as the task**, and should be **as specific as possible**.
    - **Detailed** : The **role description** should be **detailed and comprehensive** to cover all the necessary information related to the expert persona. Simple descriptions like “You are a mathematician” don’t perform well.
    - **Automated (and simple)**: *LLM-generated personas outperform human-written ones, and LLMs are much more scalable*
    - CREATE EXPERT PROMPT : [CREATE EXPERT PROMPT](#)
    - EXPERT PROMPT ANSWER : [ANSWER TO EXPERT PROMPT](#)
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Expertprompting: Instructing large language models to be distinguished experts

[B Xu, A Yang, J Lin, Q Wang, C Zhou, Y Zhang...](#) - arXiv preprint arXiv ..., 2023 - arxiv.org

- Without Expert Prompting : [Without Expert Prompting](#)
- With Expert Prompting : [With Expert Prompting](#)

# Insight: Is Persona Prompting Always Necessary?

Persona prompting is widely advertised in prompt engineering circles but is **not always critical** for everyday interactions.

- Many **behaviors attributed to persona prompts** (e.g., helpfulness, clarity, domain awareness) are often **already embedded** into modern LLMs.
- With regular usage, users often **intuitively adjust** their prompts and don't need to hand-craft detailed personas.
- In many tasks (e.g., math solving, factual lookup), persona prompting adds style but **not substance** to the output.



# Conclusion

To put it briefly, after diving into all the research here are the takeaways:

1. Persona prompting is effective on open-ended tasks (Ex: creative writing)
  2. Persona prompting probably won't help much on accuracy-based tasks (Ex: classification), especially for newer models
  3. If using a persona, it should be specific, detailed, and ideally automated, with the Expert Prompting framework as a strong starting point.
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# TASKS

Tasks you can try with Persona Prompting

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