Prompting Framework for Legal Generative AI

Working with a specifically *legally* trained generative AI tool like Lexis+® AI can be different to working with other open source and generalist AI platforms you may be familiar with. Use the framework below to guide your research from beginning, middle to end; to structure and refine your prompts; and to point you where to go to validate the cited documents informing the AI response.

1. PREPARE ⊙

CONTEXT

Before you begin, gather all the context around your issue, such as:

- o   Material Facts
- o   Key Terms
- o   Legal Principles
- o   Jurisdiction
- o   Desired Output

TASK

Depending on the information you have gathered, choose the best Lexis+® AI task to start with:

	ASK	DRAFT	SUMMARISE	UPLOAD
Only have facts of the matter	✓			
Want an answer to a question but no other output needed	✓			
Require clarification around some legal principles prior to drafting	✓			
Have all required information, no question to ask, require a specific output (clause, email, letter)		✓		
Have a citation for a specific judgment you want to summarise			✓	
Have your own or third-party documents to summarise or ask questions about the content within them				✓

2. ITERATE

STRUCTURE

Some good principles to keep in mind when you are structuring your prompts:

- o   Always **start a new conversation for a new matter.**
- o   **Specify your goal** and purpose.
  (Draft a clause for an employment agreement that…)
- o   Ensure you have the **correct grammar and punctuation** throughout the prompt.
- o   Break the scenario down into **separate succinct sentences.**
- o   **Specify a jurisdiction** if relevant to your matter.
- o   **Use legal terminology** you would expect to find in the primary and secondary source documents.
- o   Use a multi-turn approach and **separate out your prompts if you have multiple questions**, or if it would logically take multiple separate research steps to complete a task.

REFINE

Refine by submitting follow-up prompt instructions to narrow or expand your query.

If you don't get the response you need with your first prompt, either ask a follow-up question or iterate on the initial response.

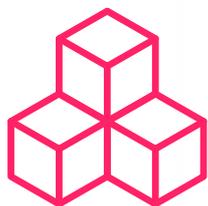Some helpful questions to ask yourself when reflecting on your prompt:

- o   Have you given clear instructions?
- o   Have you provided specific details?
- o   Have you provided background for the task?
- o   Have you formatted your prompt with a clear structure?
- o   Have you used simple and concise language?
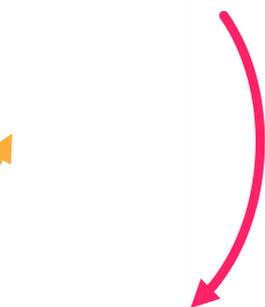
3. VALIDATE

VALIDATE

Lexis+® AI and Lexis+® provide multiple tools to evaluate the documents that ground the AI Assistant's response, such as:

- o   In-line links cited in the generated response.*
- o   'View Related Materials' link at the bottom of the response.*
- o   Analytical tools, eg. CaseBase and Legislation Citator.

* snippets from the documents are provided in Lexis+® AI. Access to the full text of the document is dependent on your current subscription to those resources.

Additional Information

Conversations:

Lexis+® AI is capable of back-and-forth conversations with you. A single conversation will assess each prompt's intent within the context of the prior prompts and responses in the same conversation. Each conversation currently supports up to 10 exchanges ("turns"). The platform will signal when those turns are close to being exhausted and then automatically start a new conversation.

Repeating a prompt:

While the goal of good prompting techniques is to generate a high-quality response, using the same prompt on separate occasions will not necessarily result in an identical response from Lexis+® AI. The AI Assistant is dynamic and responds in real time based on content that is currently available. As responses are not computed in advance or stored, the system does not respond to the same prompt the same way every time.

Some other AI tools require you to tell the LLM to state if it does not know the answer rather than make something up.

Please note that Lexis+® AI does not require this. The AI Assistant has been specifically tuned to answer legal questions based on our extensive authoritative legal content. Instead, if you ask a question that cannot be answered based on our legal content, you will receive a response that says "Lexis+ AI is designed to respond to requests from legal professionals and cannot be used to answer non-legal questions." Alternatively, you may receive a response that says "Here is some information that you may find interesting", indicating that the AI Response has found information related but not directly answering the query.

You may also want to ask the LLM to give verbatim quotes from any documents that it uses to respond to queries.

Please note, this is not required when using Lexis+® AI. Responses do not provide direct quotes from Lexis+® documents. New responses are generated, and links are provided to the underpinning, citable authority that backs up the response that has been generated.