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Quick start guide to using GPT as a thinking partner

Getting started

In this Quick Start Guide you will learn to use GPT beyond just a productivity tool, but as a powerful thinking partner.

The overall objective is to enhance your strategic decision-making by tapping into the collective intelligence of Large Language Models (LLMs), with GPT being the most commonly used. Interestingly the principles and steps Waterfield has developed over three decades to engage groups for effective outcomes, are the same when interacting with GPT and creating prompts for effective insights.

Here we will share these with you in 3 sections:

Section 1. Principles
Section 2. Steps to get started
Section 3. Working example

1. Principles

These are 3 basic principles to keep in mind as you engage with GPT for the best results:

1

Clarity first

Before seeking input from GPT, you must do your own thinking first.

This simply means that it's important to analyse, consider, and formulate your thoughts before relying on an external source of input or validation.

2

Understand the logic

In order to effectively harness the potential of GPT, you need to articulate the end outcome.

This also includes being able to unpack the process of how you arrived at your conclusion or hypothesis.

3

Effective usage

Think of GPT as a highly intelligent friend with a specialised expertise, like a savant.

Given its AI nature, GPT tends to interpret things literally, so creating well-structured queries will help you efficiently use it as a thinking tool.

2. Steps to get started

Step 1: Prep work:

We recommend you initially:
- Document your hypothesis
- Reflect and jot down the context influencing your decision-making
- Break down the logical steps that led you to your conclusion.

Step 2: Prompt:

Write a GPT prompt using your context and present your logic progression as a dialogue sequence to GPT.

1. 2.
3. 4.

Step 3: Comparison:

Compare GPT's hypothesis or conclusion with your opening hypothesis.

Step 4: Review logic

GPT's response will then either:
- Confirm your hypothesis
- Refine your line of thought
- Challenge your underlying assumptions.

Tips:

▶ If you're uncertain about phrasing, ask GPT to assist in how best to craft your prompts.

▶ You can personify GPT and ask it to be for example an "expert business analyst," and specify the expertise level of the intended audience (e.g. C-Suite or beginners).

3. Working Example

Here we share an example of using GPT as a thinking partner for strategic foresighting. Why not try this or a similar prompt sequence for your own organisation, to confirm, refine or challenge.

Example Prompt Sequence:

Prompt #1

Context: We are a large manufacturer of XYZ operating in the Asia-Pacific region selling directly to large Corporations. Our products are an input to our client's processes and they sell their ABC to the consumer market.

Role and audience: I want you to think like a business analyst and determine the main market forces that will most impact on the sector. The audience for this analysis is the C-suite.

GPT Response …

3. Working Example

Prompt #2

Using these major trends impacting the sector can you please identify the top 5 that we must factor into our future strategy.

> GPT Response …

Prompt #3

Please develop a Four Quadrant scenario model and give each Quadrant a descriptive name.

> GPT Response …

3. Working Example

Can you please develop mitigation strategies for each of the four Quadrants.

GPT Response …

Given these various mitigation strategies, what are the 'No Regrets Moves' we can adopt to allow us to be resilient in all four quadrants?

GPT Response …

GPT as our Thinking Partner

At Waterfield we have been engaging GPT as a Thinking Partner and found great success in evolving Strategic Foresighting.

In designing a clear strategy for the future growth of your organisation, an essential phase in strategy development is Strategic Foresighting. This involves anticipating the external influences that will shape your organisation's landscape over time, and determining invaluable insights to steer your organisation towards future success.

GPT has become a crucial Thinking Partner in our Strategic Foresighting phase where we integrate it to test and refine our thinking in helping organisations, as well as teaching clients to effectively use it in developing robust strategies.

How we add value

Strategy facilitation

We are expert strategy facilitators, our role is to help groups gain insights by creating the right framework, asking the right questions and framing challenging discussions to optimise everyone's time and achieve the best results.

This collaborative approach achieves agreed clarity and alignment, leading to better informed solutions and strong ownership in the strategic outcomes to be actioned.

Strategy development & execution

For developing and executing strategy in a fast changing world, we guide a process called StrategyConnect, that brings together the talented people within your organisation to solve complex problems and create a shared strategy for success.

strategyconnect™

Visit *waterfield.com.au/strategyconnect* to learn more about driving a future ready organisation.

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'Developing a strategy for future growth is hard. Waterfield helps you bring together the talented people around you to create a shared strategy for the success of your organisation.'

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Clear strategic direction & action

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