No. 140

AI MASTERY SERIES · THE METHOD

Deep Research, Done Right

An AI can now investigate for you: read dozens of sources and hand back a report. Learn to command it, read it and check it.

Ten prompts ready to copy to turn a question into a sourced, reliable report you can actually use, without spending hours on it.

Free for the SYSTINFO community

SYSTINFO · 2026

GOOD TO KNOW

Good to know

In 2026, assistants like ChatGPT, Gemini, Perplexity or Le Chat offer a 'deep research' mode: the AI searches, reads and cross-checks dozens of pages, then hands you a structured report with its sources. Powerful, but not magic. Three cues before you dive in.

1. **An AI report is a solid draft, not the truth.**
   The AI can misquote a source, miss a better one, or blend two facts. Read it as a reviewer, not a passive reader.

2. **The report is only as good as your command.**
   A vague question gives a vague report. A clear scope (topic, use, sources, timeframe) gives sharp, useful work.

3. **The sources are the real treasure.**
   What is worth gold is the list of sources the AI read. Open a few yourself before trusting the summary.

Good reflex: before using a report, open two or three key sources and check they truly say what the AI claims they do.

THE METHOD

The Method

Five moves, ten prompts ready to copy. Frame the real question, launch a well-bounded investigation, read the report with a critical eye, check its sources, then turn it into something useful. Each prompt is typed to your AI assistant, and you keep the final say on what you keep.

1 Frame
01 The Right Question · 02 The Right Tool

2 Launch
03 The Full Command · 04 The Set Scope

3 Read
05 The Report Decoded · 06 The Source Map

4 Verify
07 The Checked Source · 08 The Blind Spot

5 Use
09 The Useful Summary · 10 The Focused Follow-up

THE RCTFE RECIPE

Every prompt follows the same recipe: Role, Context, Task, Format. Copy the structure, change the brackets.

PROMPT 01 · FRAME

The Right Question

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a researcher helping me frame a clear question.
Context: I want to learn about [topic] in order to [decide what, for what use].
Task: rephrase my question into one precise sentence and offer three angles.
Format: the rephrased question, then three possible angles with why each matters.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A sharp question instead of a fuzzy topic. Pick one angle before you launch: too broad, and the report scatters.

PROMPT 02 · FRAME

The Right Tool

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an adviser who knows the AI research tools.
Context: my question is [paste the question] and I have
[free or paid tool].
Task: tell me whether a deep research mode fits here, and
which one.
Format: a two-line recommendation, plus when a plain search
is enough.
```

WHAT YOU GET

You do not launch a rocket for a simple question. Save deep research for topics that deserve a real dossier.

PROMPT 03 · LAUNCH

The Full Command

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a rigorous investigator who will hand me a report.
Context: my question is [question], for [use], level [beginner or expert].
Task: run the research and hand back a sourced report that answers the question.
Format: a summary, the key points, and every claim followed by its source.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A command that steers the AI toward useful work. Always demand sources: a report without sources cannot be checked.

PROMPT 04 · LAUNCH

The Set Scope

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an investigator who respects precise limits.
Context: I mainly want [country, timeframe, source types]
and I rule out [off topic].
Task: keep your research within this scope and flag if you
must step outside.
Format: the report, plus a note on what was left out of
scope.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A targeted report instead of a catch-all. State the timeframe: on a moving topic, a 2019 source may be out of date.

PROMPT 05 · READ

The Report Decoded

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a reviewer who summarizes your own report.
Context: here is the report you just produced: [keep it in the thread].
Task: give me the three main conclusions and what remains uncertain.
Format: three one-sentence conclusions, then a list of points still unclear.
```

WHAT YOU GET

The gist at a glance before reading it all. Note what stays uncertain: that is where you will have to dig yourself.

PROMPT 06 · READ

The Source Map

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a librarian who evaluates sources.
Context: here are the sources cited in your report: [the list].
Task: rank them by reliability and say where each gets its authority.
Format: a simple table: source, type, confidence level, one remark.
```

WHAT YOU GET

You see what the report rests on. Beware a strong conclusion propped up by a single source or a mere blog.

PROMPT 07 · VERIFY

The Checked Source

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a demanding fact-checker.
Context: this claim from the report matters to me: [paste the claim and its source].
Task: say whether the source really states this, and find a second source.
Format: yes or no with the exact quote, then an independent source.
```

WHAT YOU GET

Proof that the key figure holds up. For a decision that counts, open the source yourself: the AI can land on the wrong page.

PROMPT 08 · VERIFY

The Blind Spot

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are a kind devil's advocate.
Context: here is my report and its conclusion: [summary].
Task: say what is missing, the opposing views and the
possible biases.
Format: a short list: missed angles, counter-arguments,
limits to keep in mind.
```

WHAT YOU GET

What the report did not tell you. A good dossier shows the disagreements too, not only the answer that suits you.

PROMPT 09 · USE

The Useful Summary

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an assistant who turns a report into a
deliverable.
Context: I have this checked report and must turn it into
[note, decision, talk].
Task: draw a summary fit for my use and my audience.
Format: the format asked, short, clear, with the sources at
the bottom.
```

WHAT YOU GET

A document ready to share, not a raw brick. Keep the sources: they make your work credible to others.

PROMPT 10 · USE

The Focused Follow-up

PROMPT TO COPY

```
Role: you are an investigator picking up a single thread.
Context: one question stayed open in the report: [which one].
Task: relaunch a short, precise search on that single point.
Format: a brief sourced answer, and say whether the point is now settled.
```

WHAT YOU GET

You fill the gap without redoing it all. Two focused searches beat one huge command that drowns the essentials.

No. 140

YOUR TURN

Your Inquiry, Owned

You now know how to command deep research from an AI: frame the real question, launch a well-bounded investigation, read the report with a critical eye, check its sources, and draw a reliable deliverable from it.

The AI searches and gathers; you verify and decide. A report is only worth as much as the sources you opened yourself.

Join the SYSTINFO community to get a card like this one every day.

WhatsApp

Mattermost

LinkedIn

Facebook

Free for the SYSTINFO community