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Applying QuestionCraft™ In Real Life

*We are doing individual private exercises.
No one will ask or see what you write.*

Prompt Template: RCF-TCF

Worksheet for: _____

My situation I chose to analyze:

QuestionCraft™ Workshop
June 19
2025

My commitment to myself for later:

- ☐ Complete my Questions Prompt
- ☐ Enter Questions Prompt into AI
- ☐ Answer questions generated by AI
- ☐ Use answers to craft Solutions prompt
- ☐ Enter Solutions Prompt into AI

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Write a situation you want to analyze.

OR

Where do you need a problem solution?

<date/time>



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What are your takeaways?

QuestionCraft™
Workshop

June 19
2025

- ❖ Transform your problem-solving with QuestionCraft™
- ❖ Why? “Future of Work” is to “democratize data analytics”
“Responsible financial decision making will be expected at all levels and from all employees.” (multiple sources)
- ❖ **Systematic questioning with AI becomes your superpower**
- ❖ Method: QuestionCraft™ process
 - **Your part:** Work on YOUR analysis as I show how to do it
 - **Handouts:** Yours to take with you & complete the analysis



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WHY me? MJ Lindeman, PhD

Harvard PhD: Compared Human & AI Learning

NSF Graduate Research Fellow in Psychology

Three Experiments: People
Learning to categorize objects

BASIC
on TRS-
80



Als Learning the Categories
6 Mathematical Models:
4 of Others, 2 of Mine



PDP 11/44 Makefile
➤ C
➤ FORTRAN
➤ Assembly

2023-Present: Paid to write blog posts for AI-software companies.

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WHY this? Why should I care?

Top 10 technical skills expected to increase in relevance (% job roles)

100%	AI ethics and responsible AI
100%	AI literacy
66%	Prompt engineering
20%	Large Language Models (LLM) architecture

2024 Consortium report: <https://www.cisco.com/c/dam/m/ai-enabled-ict-workforce-consortium/report.pdf>

While AI prompt engineering might be a hot topic now, it's unlikely to be a sustainable, long-term career path for most people.

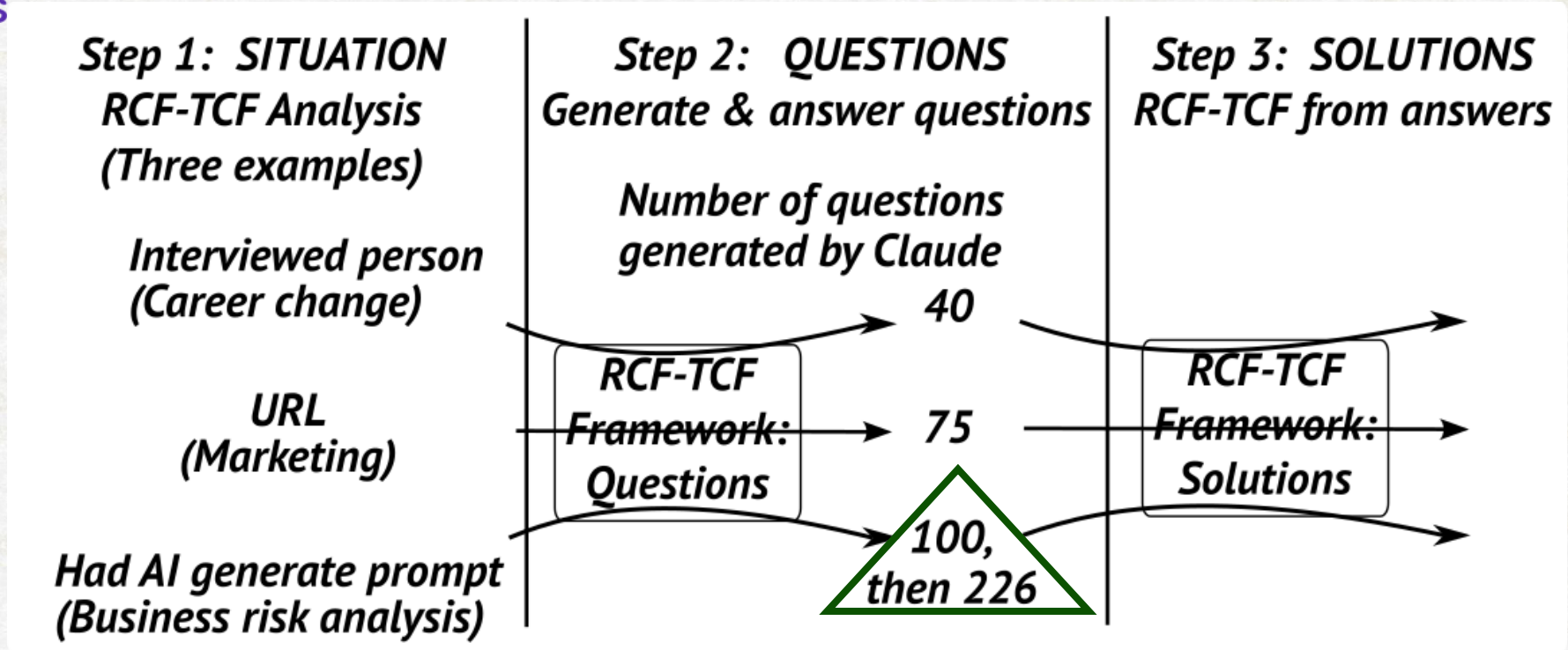
... individuals might find more enduring success by developing strong problem-solving skills and a deep understanding of the underlying AI systems, enabling them to adapt to future changes in the field.



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What is QuestionCraft™?

A three-step method of solving problems with an AI.





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Claude Chat: Seeing Around Corners

Do you understand the phrase 'to see around corners'? *(Claude defined)*

How do I describe a situation so that you can see around corners to identify its risks? *(Claude listed 10 categories of info)*

The list is great. Provide more detail under each of the 10 so that someone who is unfamiliar with describing situations can understand what all they need to include. *(7-8 items for each category)*

Is there anything else a user can do to help you see around corners? *(Claude identified another 35 kinds of information as 7 items in each of 5 categories)*

If you were going to teach someone to help you to see around corners them, what would you do? *(Listed 23 items in 5 categories. "The ultimate goal would be helping them develop the habit of presenting rich, nuanced situations with minimal filtering, allowing me to identify risks they might miss because they're too close to the situation or have developed blind spots.)*

What are second- and third-order risk effects? *(Claude explained them)*

[Claude generated a list of 96 questions & I asked for four more. When asked to expand and improve, the list of 226 was generated.]



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Effects of First-Order Risks

First-order risks represent immediate, direct threats to specific business operations or objectives. These are the most visible and quantifiable risks that traditional risk management approaches handle well. They include operational failures, regulatory violations, technology breakdowns, or financial losses that directly impact the organization.

Second-order risks emerge as indirect consequences when first-order risks materialize and interact with organizational systems, stakeholder relationships, or market conditions. Second-order risks frequently involve reputational damage, supply chain disruptions, regulatory scrutiny, or stakeholder confidence erosion that amplifies the initial problem.

Third-order risks represent systemic effects that fundamentally alter the business environment, competitive landscape, or operational context. These are the most dangerous. Third-order risks often include industry-wide disruptions, regulatory paradigm shifts, or permanent changes in stakeholder expectations that reshape entire markets.

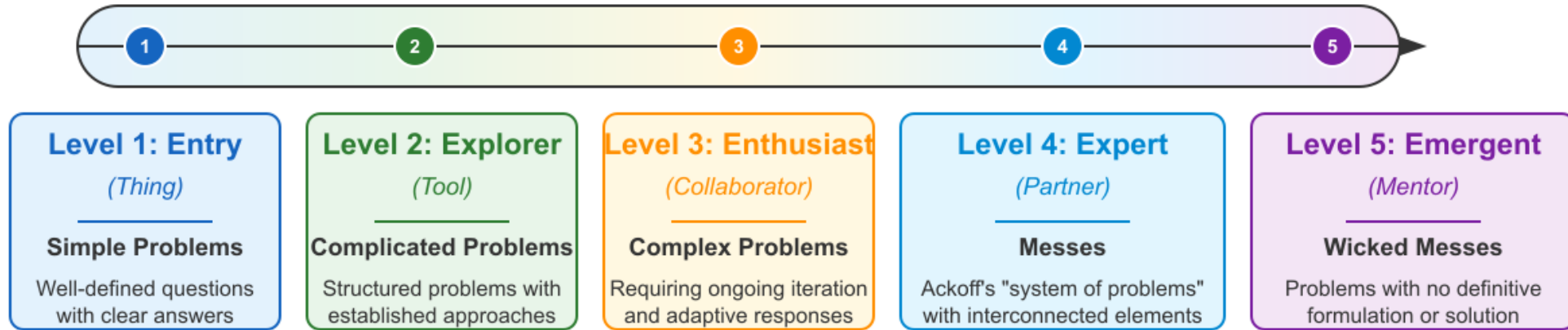


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How To Apply QuestionCraft™

Problem Complexity Continuum

How Human-AI Interactions Evolve to Address Increasingly Complex Challenges
INCREASING COMPLEXITY



Illustrative Examples



Based on Ackoff's "Messes" and Rittel Webber's "Wicked Problems" frameworks

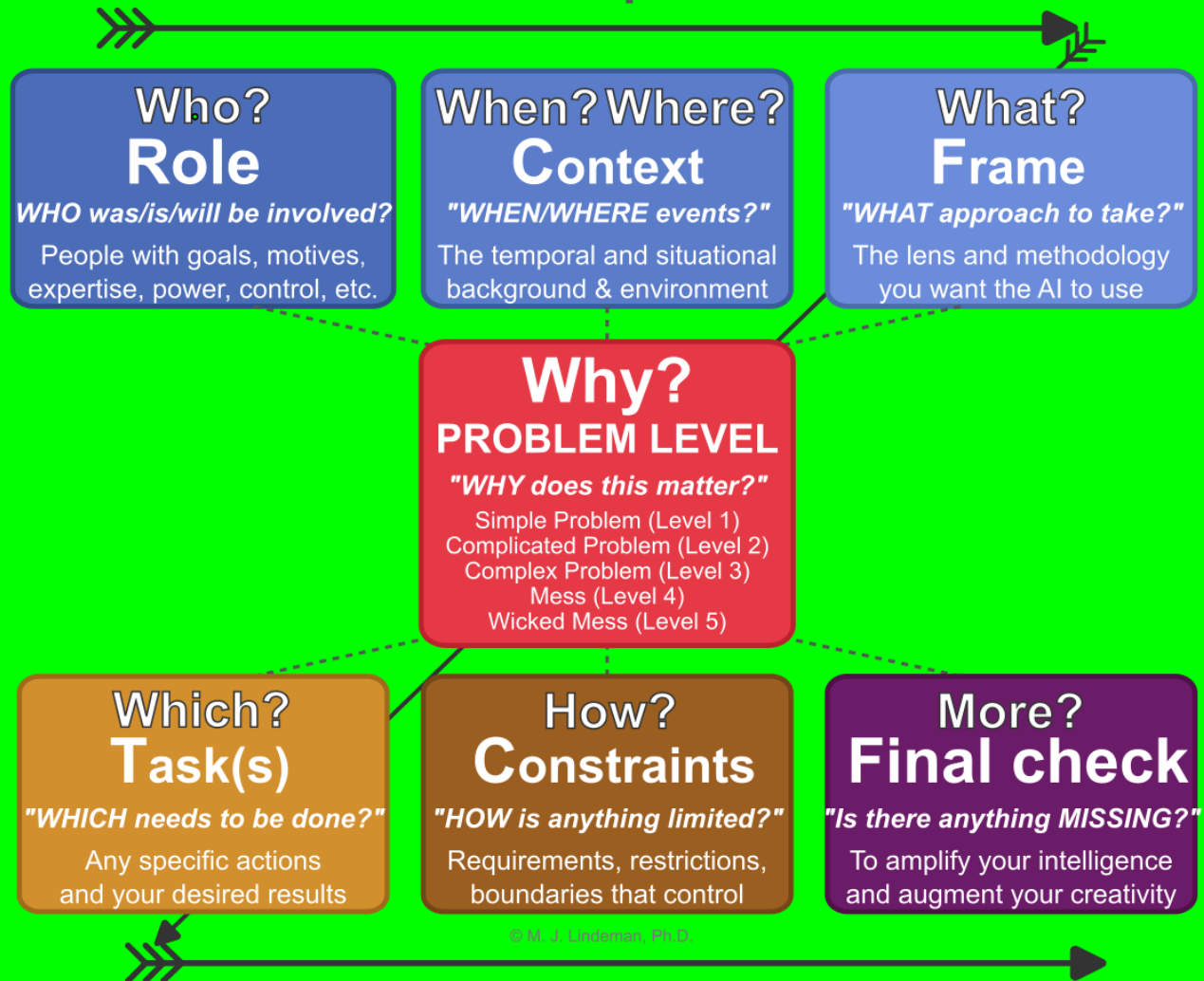


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<date/time>

The Detective's Design of AI Prompts

RCF-TCF Prompt Framework



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Instructions are in Each Box

Prompt Template: RCF-TCF

QuestionCraft™
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Worksheet for: _____

My situation I chose to analyze:

R – Roles (Information about people involved in the situation) Describe ALL people who affect or are affected by this situation. Include yourself, team members, customers, competitors, vendors, stakeholders, regulators, etc. Identify the individuals and describe their relevant characteristics. For groups, describe the segment and key characteristics.

C – Context (The situational factors other than people) Provide objective facts about what's happening (NO people - they go in Roles). Include relevant information such as events, timelines, data, metrics, market conditions, technology, processes, measurable outcomes, etc.

F – Frame (The point of view the AI is to use) Specify what type of expert brain you want the AI to use. This is NOT content decisions, but expert perspective. Include the specific expertise areas, methodologies, and analytical approaches you want applied. Be sure to include the Special Instructions shown on the back of this page!

T – Task[s] (To be done by the AI) Explain exactly what you want the AI to do. Be specific about deliverables, scope, and format. This is WHAT to do (if needed) and the desired RESULTS. This is not HOW to do it.

C – Constraints (Limitations, requirements, and boundaries) Limitations and requirements for HOW to complete the task. Include budget limits, compliance needs, resource restrictions, format requirements, and other non-negotiable factors.

F - Final Check (If anything was missed that should be included) Simple completeness questions asking if any important factors were overlooked. This can include more than one question.



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My commitment:

- ☐ Enter *Questions Prompt* into AI
- ☐ Answer questions generated by AI
- ☐ Use answers to craft *Solutions prompt*
- ☐ Enter *Solutions Prompt* into AI

For your use during workshop

Prompt Template: RCF-TCF

QuestionCraft™
Workshop

June 19
2025

Worksheet for: _____

My situation I chose to analyze:

My commitment to myself for later:

- ☐ Complete my *Questions Prompt*
- ☐ Enter *Questions Prompt* into AI
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Choose Your Challenge/Problem NOW

Pick something current:

Examples: Career decision, team issue, strategic opportunity

Multi-faceted: Not simple yes/no, needs deeper analysis

Important to you: You genuinely need better solutions

Get started: Begin thinking about all the people involved



R: Roles and people involved

The PEOPLE that affect or are affected by the situation

- Yourself, other individuals, groups
- Bosses, team members, colleagues, stakeholders
- Clients, customers, vendors, competitors
- Decision influencers, gatekeepers, regulators
- Anyone who can affect or be affected

Example descriptors

- Title, position, or relationship to the situation
- Responsibilities, authority, or influence
- Current state, concerns, goals, motivations
- How they can affect or be affected by the situation



C: Context (Situational factors)

Every THING/EVENT that Affect or Affected By Situation

- Be very factual because opinions will slant the AI results

Examples:

- Events, changes, trends, industry developments
- Numbers, timelines, deadlines, sequences
- Market conditions, economic factors
- Systems, processes, or operational details
- Data, metrics, or measurable outcomes
- Physical or environmental factors
- Technology, tools, or resources available



F: **Frame** (point of view AI is to use)

Specify what type of expertise, viewpoint, and/or approach you want the AI to take. This shapes how the questions will be framed.

- **Partial template:** “As a [specific expert] with [specific expertise], analyze from [specific perspective] for a [type of outcome]”
- Be specific: “20 years B2B experience” not “business expert”

Examples:

- What specific area of expertise (marketing, finance, operations)
- What expert perspective you need (consultant, advisor, specialist)
- What type of outcome (strategy, analysis, solution, evaluation)
- Any specific methodologies or approaches you prefer



F: Frame (continued)

Essential Addition - Copy This Exactly

- **Add this to your prompt:** *“Use your best critical thinking and act as a strategic mentor. Generate questions based on strategic importance and natural inquiry flow, not predetermined numerical patterns. Critical areas should generate more questions than less urgent concerns. Follow the logic of the situation rather than artificial organizational symmetry. Think deeply about what an expert consultant would need to know to provide breakthrough insights.”*
- **Why critical:** This decreases the probability of getting artificial patterns (such as five questions per category) instead of the set of appropriate strategic questions.



T: Tasks (What the AI is to do)

Example Tasks:

- Generate questions for analyzing your situation
- Develop insights from patterns and relationships
- Organized analysis with decision matrices
- Create action plans with next steps, timelines, metrics
- Evaluate options and potential solutions
- Identify prioritized risks and mitigation strategies

Example Task Statements: (could specify categories)

- "Generate a comprehensive set of detailed strategic questions for analyzing [situation] and developing an action plan"
- "Create questions that help evaluate [specific decision] from multiple perspectives"



C: Constraints (Requirements & Limits)

ALL requirements, restrictions, boundaries, etc:

- Budget limits: "Solutions must cost under \$X"
- Time constraints: "Needs implementation within 30 days"
- Resource limits: "Only current team members available"
- Compliance needs: "Must meet regulatory requirements"
- Authority limits: "Can't change organizational structure"
- Non-negotiables of any kind
- Output Requirements, such as format, length, style, etc.
- Success Criteria for evaluation

Use AI to help identify other constraints to include



F: Final Check (Quality Control & Completeness)

Review Your Complete Prompt Before Submitting:

- ✓ Role clarity: Are all key people/stakeholders identified with specific details?
- ✓ Context completeness: Have you included all relevant facts, events, and situational factors?
- ✓ Frame precision: Is your expert specification detailed and the strategic mentor instruction included?
- ✓ Task specificity: Is your desired output clearly defined?
- ✓ Constraints reality: Are all limitations and requirements explicitly stated?



F: Final Check (Quality Control & Completeness)

At the end of the prompt, ask the AI to check for missing information that should be considered.

Examples of general questions:

- "Have I missed anything that could affect the analysis or outcomes?"
- "What improvements do you suggest?"

Also, while completing the RCF-TCF framework, ask the AI specific questions, such as:

"What stakeholder or situational factor might I have overlooked?"

"Is there a different expert perspective that would generate additional strategic questions?"

"What constraints or requirements did I forget to mention?"



Implementation Success Tips

Step 1: ANALYZE SITUATION

- Review the instructions and the examples
- Take time with your template —details matter for question quality
- Include the exact AI instruction provided on your handout

Step 2: GENERATE & ANSWER QUESTIONS

- Carefully consider and choose which questions to answer
- Answer those questions thoroughly, not just yes/no responses

Step 3: Use RCF-TCF to craft Solutions Prompt

- Ask AI for help in crafting prompt



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What Happens Next?

Your Journey to having superpower for solving problems

- **This week:** Complete all 3 steps of QuestionCraft™
- **This month:** Apply the 3-step process to another challenge
- **This quarter:** Make systematic questioning your default problem-solving approach
- **Long-term:** Experience breakthrough insights that only come from comprehensive analysis

You now have the complete methodology, and your success in the era of AI depends on using it.

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Your Commitment To Yourself

Your Promise to Yourself Look at your partially completed worksheet. That represents a real challenge you're facing.

Your commitment: "I will complete the steps in the QuestionCraft™ process:

1. Use the prompt template for QUESTIONS generation
2. Consider and answer questions
3. Use the prompt template for SOLUTIONS generation

Why this matters: Most people hope good questions emerge. You now systematically create them.

Questions? Contact Martha(M.J.) Lindeman on LinkedIn or through magnifyingminds.org.

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Thank you!

If you have questions or want more information:

You can email me at mj@magnifyingminds.org and
I am on LinkedIn at [Martha \(M. J.\) Lindeman](#)