Writing Prompts for Safety Training

Better prompts get better drafts out of AI, but some problems no prompt can fix, and those need a person.

Start with the exercise
Before you write a prompt, ask whether the task is a green, yellow, or red use of AI. A better prompt can help with green and yellow tasks, but it won't make a red one safe.

Tell it what a new co-instructor would need

- The role you want it to play
- Who it's for and where it'll be used
- What you want, and how long
- The exact source to work from, pasted in, with "use only this"

INSTEAD OF	TRY
"Write a toolbox talk on trenching."	"You are a senior construction health and safety trainer. Write a 5-minute toolbox talk on trench cave-ins for a crew of 15 with mixed experience and training levels, and make the content accessible and easy to understand for everyone on the crew. Use only OSHA 29 CFR 1926.651 and 1926.652, pasted below, and don't add anything that isn't in them. Cover the hazards plainly, write it to be read out loud, end with two questions to ask the crew, and list anything you weren't sure about."

Tone words change the content

"Short and positive" gets you praise and hides the problems. Ask for what you actually need, like "what went well and what needs work."

Treat the first answer as a draft

Push back with "What did you leave out?" or "Which points did you add?"

What no prompt can fix

- Check every requirement and number against the source.
- Have a fluent speaker review any translation.
- Keep subjective grades and evaluations of people with the instructor.
- Keep trainee names and scores out of AI tools your organization hasn't approved.

Before you use anything, ask yourself whether you'd put your name on it.

The Center for AI Worker Safety (CAWS) is an independent organization that builds workers' capacity to evaluate and govern AI in the workplace. CAWS can work with training organizations to build trade-specific prompt libraries, tested by their own trainers, and to develop AI policies. Contact Patrick Hassan, Founder and Executive Director, at **phassan@centerforaiworkersafety.org**.