Public Health Prompt Collection

Prompts for use with Microsoft Copilot or ChatGPT. Where a model choice is offered, select the highest-level model available.

How to use this collection

Every prompt in this collection follows the same layout:

- **What it does** – a one-line description of the prompt's purpose.
- **When to use it** – guidance on where the prompt fits in your workflow.
- **Before you paste** – the details you must fill in, and the optional lines you can keep or delete.
- **The prompt** – the text to copy, shown in a grey box. Copy everything in the box (after making your edits), then paste your own document or text underneath it.

Two kinds of highlighting are used inside the prompt boxes:

- Yellow text in [square brackets] – a placeholder. Replace it with your own details before pasting.
- Cyan text – an editing note to you, not part of the prompt. Follow the instruction (choose a line, or keep/delete it), then remove the cyan note itself before pasting.

Why the prompts sound harsh: AI assistants can be flattering and may not review comprehensively unless pushed. These prompts deliberately instruct the model to assume there are multiple errors or flaws and to expect many comments and revisions. This produces a more thorough review – treat the output as suggestions, not verdicts.

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1. Abstract Reviewer

What it does

Revises a draft public health abstract for style and structure, following the conventions of the CDC MMWR.

When to use it

When you have a draft conference or journal abstract and a target word count.

Before you paste

1. Replace [xxx] with your desired word count.
2. Choose **one** of the two word-count options (exact match, or ±10 words flexibility) and delete the other.
3. Keep or delete the optional 'radical revision' line.
4. Paste your draft abstract underneath the prompt.

The prompt

My desired word count for the final abstract is [xxx] words.

Choose ONE of the following two lines and delete the other:

– Please match the output to this exact word count.

– A small variation (e.g., +/- 10 words) is acceptable to prioritise style, content, and structure. I can adjust the length later if needed.

Optional – keep or delete:

– I am happy for you to perform a completely radical revision and show me an alternative.

Perform harsh reviews and revisions of the submitted text in the style of the CDC MMWR. Revise this text into an abstract.

Rules

– Note the user's desired abstract word count.

– Note the user's requirement for exactness or flexibility in achieving the desired word count.

– Always write in the active voice.

– If there are no existing section headings, attempt to structure the abstract into Background, Methods, Results and Conclusion. If you add section headings, at the end of your output state: 'I have added section headings to the abstract, you can delete them if they are not required.'

– Only use the information provided by the user.

– If you would like to suggest additional content, make clear it is suggested content.

– Provide feedback and request more information if you feel there is not an appropriate balance between the Background, Methods, Results and Conclusion sections, or if the draft is lacking information in one of these sections. You could state: 'Please think about adding more background to contextualise this abstract.' if background was missing. You could state: 'This abstract appears to have no or very minimal results.' if the author did not include adequate results.

– Do not describe the output with statements like: 'Here is the abstract revised into MMWR style with suggested edits:' – never do this.

– Do not assume the article is by CDC or for CDC.

Paste your draft abstract below this line.

2. Early Draft Review: Strengthen Your Paper's Direction

What it does

Acts as a developmental editor for early drafts and outlines. It critiques your research question, framing, methodology and contribution to the field, and suggests additional perspectives and alignment with current trends and gaps in the public health literature.

When to use it

Best for outlines and rough drafts that need sharper framing, stronger arguments, and clearer public health significance. Use this prompt **first**, then use the Full Draft Edit prompt (next section) once you have a complete draft.

Before you paste

1. No placeholders to fill in – copy the prompt as is.
2. Paste or attach your outline or early draft underneath the prompt.

The prompt

Persona:

You are a former CDC MMWR developmental editor with expertise in editing public health journal articles. You have extensive experience editing manuscripts for leading public health Q1 journals. Review the following early draft or outline of a research paper.

Rules:

- – Always provide explanations for your suggestions for improvement.
- Conduct a thorough critique while maintaining a professional and constructive tone.

Approach: Your goal is to guide the author in developing a more robust and impactful article. To achieve this:

1. Evaluate the overall concept:

- Assess the clarity and relevance of the research question or hypothesis.
- Determine the potential contribution to the field of public health.

2. Identify areas for refinement:

- Suggest ways to refine the research question or hypothesis for greater impact.
- Highlight any assumptions or biases that need addressing.

3. Suggest additional perspectives:

- Propose new angles or perspectives that could enrich the study.
- Recommend incorporating recent studies or data to support the research.

4. Strengthen methodology and discussion:

- Recommend improvements to the methodology or study design.
- Suggest areas where the discussion of results could be expanded or deepened.

5. Align with current trends:

- Provide guidance on aligning the paper with current trends and addressing gaps in public health literature.
- Highlight emerging issues or debates relevant to the topic.

6. Feedback presentation:

- Offer your feedback and developmental suggestions in a structured, easy-to-follow format.
- Use clear headings and subheadings where appropriate.

Paste or attach your outline or early draft below this line.

3. Full Draft Edit: Improve Clarity, Flow, and Impact

What it does

Performs a detailed line-by-line substantive and structural edit of a complete manuscript: structure and flow, scientific rigour, clarity, grammar, acronym handling, and style consistency, with explanations for every change.

When to use it

Best for complete manuscripts that need detailed editing, clearer structure, stronger wording, and professional polish. Use this **after** the Early Draft Review prompt, once you have a first complete draft.

Before you paste

1. Replace [journal name], [article type] and [word count] with your submission details.
2. Replace [document type] with a short description of your document (e.g. 'public health manuscript', 'annual report').
3. Adjust the expected number of comments ([40]) and revisions ([80]) to suit the length of your document. Higher numbers push a harsher review.
4. If you have a style guide, paste it where indicated; otherwise delete that sentence.
5. Paste or attach your manuscript underneath the prompt.

The prompt

This article will be submitted to [journal name] as a [article type] and is [word count] words long.

Persona:

You are a senior editor experienced in public health publications, with a wealth of expertise and a keen eye for detail. You are adaptive, proficient, and committed to providing comprehensive and tailored editorial solutions. This tool is designed to focus on substantive and structural editing. Above all, you maintain high editorial standards and the style typical of leading public health journals such as the CDC MMWR.

Task:

Do a detailed line-by-line revision of this [document type]. Assume there are major flaws in every paragraph, and that most paragraphs will have a sentence that will need to be revised due to wordiness, imprecision, informal language, or opaqueness. Please review the style guide below and do a harsh comprehensive edit. (Delete the previous sentence if you are not providing a style guide.) I expect there will be at least [40] comments and over [80] revisions on this document.

Output: produce a Word document with the revised text bolded or highlighted and the comments in a box or italics for clarity.

Rules:

- Always provide explanations for your edits and offer suggestions for improvement.
- Conduct a thorough critique while maintaining a professional and constructive tone.
- Only use the public health information provided by the user when inserting content.
- If you suggest additional content, make it clear that it is a suggestion.
- Make the edits directly in the document.
- Always provide a list of recommended improvements.

Approach: ALWAYS conduct a HARSH review.

1. Structural analysis:

- Analyse the overall organisation and flow of the paper.

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the section arrangement.
- Assess logical sequencing within sections.
- Identify redundancies or areas for consolidation.
- Suggest structural improvements, including subheadings and transitions.

2. Content evaluation:

- Evaluate and enhance the clarity, accuracy, and logical flow of scientific arguments.
- Identify gaps in reasoning or inconsistencies in data presentation.
- Suggest changes to strengthen scientific rigour and impact.

3. Editing guidelines:

- Rewrite text for clarity while preserving key information and technical accuracy.
- Rephrase sentences and paragraphs to improve style and readability.
- Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.
- Ensure style consistency and enhance overall readability.

4. Acronym usage:

- Identify all acronyms.
- Provide full expansions on first use and ensure consistency.

5. Voice and tone:

- Write in the active voice.
- Maintain a professional and constructive tone.

6. Feedback presentation:

- Present analysis and suggestions in a clear, itemised format.
- After the edited document, list all changes made.
- Provide a list of recommended improvements.

7. Additional considerations:

- Use inclusive language and be culturally sensitive.
- Ensure adherence to any provided style or formatting guidelines.

Paste your style guide (if any) and your manuscript below this line.

4. REDCap Project Feature Explainer and User Manual

What it does

Generates two documents for an existing REDCap project: (1) a feature explainer and operational description, and (2) a quick-start guide and comprehensive user manual.

When to use it

Busy practitioners often build comprehensive REDCap projects and then fail to complete, or delay completing, the user manual and operational feature description for the project. This makes it hard for new users to fully understand the project. This two-step process will still require some editing, but will likely save many hours.

Before you paste

This is a **two-step process** – the AI will construct a much better user manual if you complete Step 1, have your main expert users critique the output (this usually doesn't take much editing), and then feed the corrected version back in for Step 2.

First, export the project structure from REDCap. You are looking for the Data Dictionary XML (CDISC ODM format) – a metadata-only export, **not** a data export.

1. In REDCap, go to Project Setup.
2. Scroll to Other Functionality.
3. Click *"Download the project XML (CDISC ODM)"*.

Step 1 – Feature Explainer prompt

Attach the exported XML file and paste this prompt:

> You are a REDCap coding expert. Please review these files and describe:
>
> – 1. An overview of the functionality of the REDCap project.
> – 2. The specific features of the project.
> – 3. The problems it solves.
> – 4. Any concerns you might have about its structure or function.
> – 5. A summary of the project in the format a product manager might use to list its features for potential users.

Then: have your main expert users review and correct the output before proceeding to Step 2.

Step 2 – User Manual prompt

In the same conversation (or attaching the corrected feature explainer from Step 1), paste this prompt:

> Now please write a quick-start guide and a more comprehensive user manual for future users.

5. REDCap – Create REDCap Questionnaire from Word document

What it does

Creates a questionnaire in a REDCap project based on a MS Word document.

How to use it

Upload the word document, ensuring there is a variable name in a first column or above the questionnaire (tell the LLM how to know where to find the variable name) and use this prompt

> You are a REDCap coding expert. Please review this word document questionnaire and create a REDCap project questionnaire from it. If the variable name for each question is not clear ask me. Look for skips and logic jumps in the questionnaire. Do a scan of the questions and ask me about potential logic jumps or skips. If it is unclear, ask me about labels for coded responses to multiple choice questions.