REPORT
Prompt & Rubric Evaluation Exercises

v1.0.0

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REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Author	Description of Changes
v1.0.0	09/15/2025	Eldon G.	Initial draft.

SECTION 0.0: PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Project Overview

This report covers hands-on exercises for evaluating prompts and rubrics. The aim was to identify unclear, stacked, or incomplete instructions. I assessed the rubric's fairness and measurability and proposed improvements. The exercises included the creation of self-contained criteria and evaluation cheat sheets for future assessments.

Skills Demonstrated

- Critical assessment of instructional prompts
- Rubric evaluation and weighting optimization
- Writing clear, measurable, self-contained criteria
- Creating practical evaluation cheat sheets
- Attention to detail and analytical thinking

Disclaimer: All work reflects my independent analysis and is my own. No proprietary or confidential company data was included.

SECTION 1.0: EXERCISE SUMMARY

1.1 Project Description

This set of exercises focused on prompts in various formats, including data analysis, essay writing, technical labs, persuasive writing, and analytical essays. I reviewed their rubrics to identify weaknesses such as vagueness, poor weighting, redundancy, or missing details. The goal was to suggest improvements that would make prompts and rubrics clearer, fairer, and more self-contained.

1.2 Exercise 1 — Data Analysis Prompt

Prompt: A company collects daily sales data from its stores. Your tasks are:

- The team calculated the total monthly revenue for each store in 2024.
- Identify the top three stores with the highest growth compared to 2023.
- Predict the next quarter's revenue for each store using linear regression.
- Suggest which stores should receive more marketing resources based on your predictions.

Rubric Instructions

[+5] Correctly calculates the total monthly revenue for each store.

[+5] Correctly identifies the top three stores with the highest growth.

[+5] Provides next-quarter revenue predictions using linear regression.

[+5] Provides actionable recommendations for marketing resources.

Critiques & Improvements

- The prompt did not mention any dataset. *In real-world data analysis, missing dataset details can cause wasted hours or incorrect assumptions.* → Added dataset reference (e.g., `sales2024.csv` with StoreID, Date, Revenue).
- Equal weighting assigned the same value to the regression as to the totals. *This undervalues complex work, leading to unfair grading in training and assessment environments.* → A higher weight is suggested for regression tasks.
- The actionable recommendations were vague. *In IT operations, vagueness can lead to meaningless recommendations with no value.* → Defined as requiring predictions with at least one numerical justification.

1.3 Exercise 2 — Essay Prompt

Prompt: Write a 500–700-word essay discussing the ethical implications of AI surveillance. Consider:

- Privacy concerns for citizens
- Governmental regulations
- Potential benefits for public safety

Rubric Instructions

[+4] Clearly discusses the privacy concerns.

[+3] Addresses governmental regulations.

[+3] It also discusses the potential public safety benefits.

[+2] The essay is well-structured, coherent, and meets the word count.

Critiques & Improvements

- The prompt did not guide balance. *Uneven coverage can mislead evaluators and bias the results.* → Clarified equal focus on all three areas.
- No rubric criterion for the evidence. *In cybersecurity reporting, a lack of evidence weakens credibility.* → Added “Use of evidence/examples” worth two points.
- The word count is underweighted. *Word limits are important in compliance settings (e.g., policy reports).* → Separated as its own criterion, worth 1 point.

1.4 Exercise 3 — Technical Lab Prompt

Prompt: Using Python, write a script that:

- Reads a CSV file of employee working hours
- Calculates overtime pay for each employee
- Outputs a new CSV with employee names, total hours, and overtime pay
- Visualize total hours per department in a bar chart

Rubric Instructions

[+3] The CSV file is correctly read.

[+4] Accurately calculates overtime pay.

[+3] Produces correctly formatted CSV output.

[+2] Creates a functional bar chart of the total hours per department.

Critiques & Improvements

- Overtime calculation is undefined. *Such ambiguity could create payroll compliance issues.* → Defined rule: >40 h/week × hourly rate × 1.5.
- “Correctly formatted” CSV is vague. *Vague formatting in IT workflows can disrupt automation pipelines.* → Required columns: EmployeeName, TotalHours, OvertimePay.
- The rubric ignored error handling. *Error handling is critical in production system.* → Added criteria for handling missing or malformed inputs.

1.5 Exercise 4 — Persuasive Office Layout Report

Prompt: Write a persuasive report recommending a new office layout to increase productivity. Explain why the current layout is ineffective, describe at least three changes, and discuss the benefits and potential challenges of each change. Please make the report engaging and professional.

Rubric Instructions

[+5] explains why the current layout is ineffective.

[+5] Describes at least three proposed changes.

[+5] Discuss the benefits of each change.

[+5] Discuss the potential challenges of each change.

[+5] The report is engaging and professional.

Critiques & Improvements

- "Persuasive report" is vague. *In IT or enterprise contexts, vague objectives can derail decision-making.* → Defined audience as "stakeholder report."
- The instructions were stacked into one sentence. *Stacked requirements reduce clarity, particularly in evaluation workflows.* → Divided into three measurable steps.
- The rubric gave equal weight to all. *Equal weighting risks trivializing core criteria (why the layout is ineffective).* → Suggested redistributing points with higher weights on the argument foundation.
- The term potential challenges is vague. *In real deployments, undefined challenges could mean missing cost or logistical blockers.* → Specified types: financial, logistical, and employee satisfaction.

1.6 Exercise 5 — Analytical Technology Essay

Prompt: An analytical essay on technology. Explain its effects, give examples, and discuss whether it is more helpful or harmful in society.

Rubric Instructions

[+5] The essay is well written and clear.

[+5] Includes at least three technology effects.

[+5] Provides examples.

[+5] Discussed whether technology is more helpful or harmful.

[+5] Essays should be 500–600 words.

Critiques & Improvements

- The term technology is too broad. *Vagueness could lead to inconsistent essays across participants.* → Narrowed scope (e.g., medical, educational, and enterprise).
- Prompt-stacked multiple tasks. *Stacking creates confusion regarding grading priorities.* → Split into separate requirements.
- No context or audience was provided. *Audience matters: reports for policymakers differ from academic essays.* → Added specifications for the audience.
- Equal weighting across the rubric. *In real-world grading, not all criteria are equally important.* → Reweighted, prioritizing the central argument.
- “Well-written and clear” is stacked and vague. *Ambiguity weakens grading consistency.* → Split into grammar/style and logical flow.

SECTION 2.0: CONCLUSION

2.1 Key Takeaways

- A strong rubric should be self-contained, balanced, and measurable.
- Task difficulty should determine the weighting to avoid undervaluing complex work.
- Explicit definitions prevent ambiguity in prompts and rubrics.
- Clarity in the prompts and rubrics ensures consistent evaluation.

2.2 Security Implications and Recommendations

Clarity and precision are essential in cybersecurity and IT operations.

- Ambiguous prompts can lead to misconfigured systems or wasted analyst hours.
- Overly broad rubrics may undervalue critical security tasks like access control or incident response.

Example

If a system administrator is told to “configure access rules” without specifics, they may create overly permissive firewall rules, exposing sensitive data. By identifying vagueness and demanding clarity, evaluators can prevent such security risks.

Final Note

These exercises strengthened my ability to critique vague requirements and design structured, measurable rubrics. This skill directly supports roles in IT infrastructure, cloud computing, and enterprise security evaluation.