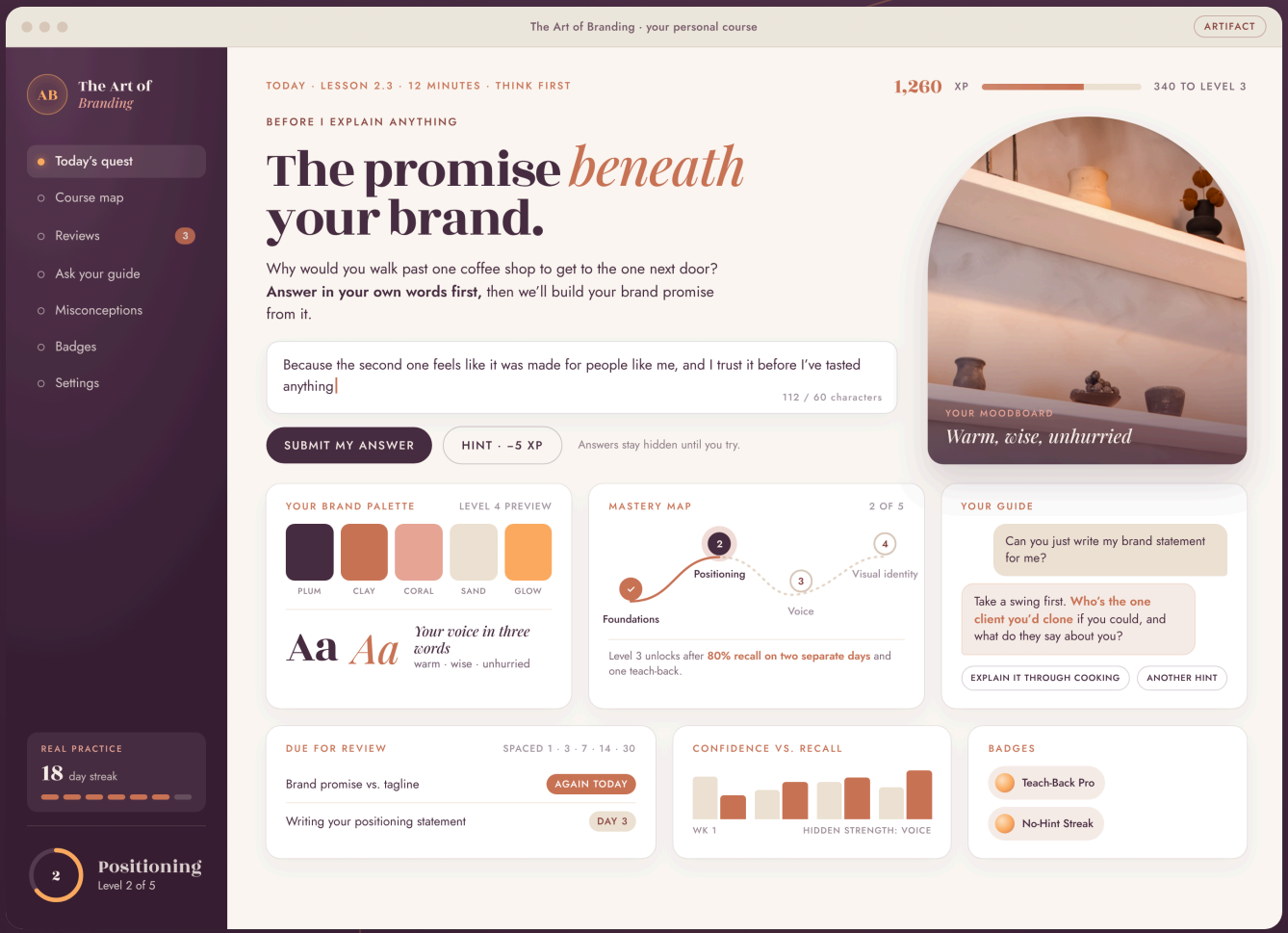
A FREE GUIDE FROM NATALIE MACNEIL

Build your own course *with Claude.*

The prompt that turns anything you want to learn into a personal course, built around how your mind works.



Natalie MacNeil

FOUNDER OF AI DREAM TEAM®

A whole course, *built around you.*

I've had Claude build me courses for quantum physics, for photography composition, for a few phrases before a trip, and for skills I wanted in my business. This guide gives you the prompt I use.

What makes it different from asking AI to explain something is the way it's built. Claude interviews you first, one question at a time, about what you already know, what you want to do with it and how your mind learns best. Then it builds a real course, as an interactive artifact right inside your Claude chat, with levels, lessons that ask you to think before they explain, and a guide that gives hints instead of answers.

01
An interview first
Six short questions, then Claude reads your profile back before it builds anything.

02
A placement diagnostic
About eight questions, so you start at exactly the right level.

03
Today's quest
One next step on the screen at a time, never a wall of modules.

04
A guide that hints
Ask it anything. If you haven't tried yet, you get a hint and a question back.

05
A review rhythm
What you get right returns after 1, 3, 7, 14 and 30 days.

06
Points for understanding
XP and levels only move when you recall, explain or apply an idea.

WHY IT STICKS

61% vs 40%

Students who practised recalling a passage remembered 61% a week later, against 40% for those who reread it four times.

Roediger and Karpicke, 2006

1 • 3 • 7 • 14 • 30

Reviews spaced out over days and weeks beat cramming for memory that lasts.

Cepeda et al., 2008

2×

In a Harvard study, students learned more than twice as much from an AI tutor designed around how people learn.

Kestin et al., 2025

Set it up in *five steps.*

WHERE YOU'RE BUILDING THIS

Everything happens inside a regular **Claude chat**. Claude builds your course as an **artifact**, an interactive page that opens in a panel beside the conversation. To come back to it, reopen the same chat or find it in **Artifacts** in Claude's sidebar (the Artifacts tab on mobile).

1 Pick your topic

The one you keep circling back to. Jot down what you already know, what you want to be able to do, and how much time you have. Anything you skip, Claude will ask you about.

2 Open a new chat in Claude

At claude.ai or in the Claude desktop or mobile app. Artifacts, the interactive pages Claude builds, work on every plan, including the free one. On a paid plan, choose the most capable model in the menu, since a full course is a big build.

3 Check one setting

In Settings, open Capabilities and make sure code execution and file creation is switched on. On a Team or Enterprise plan, your workspace owner controls this.

4 Paste the prompt and answer the interview

Fill in the [BLANKS] you know on the next two pages, paste the whole prompt in, and answer one question at a time. The more honest you are, the more personal your course will be.

5 Open your course and start learning

Your course appears as an artifact in the panel beside the chat. Take the placement diagnostic, then go start learning.

JOT THESE DOWN FIRST

These are examples. Use your own.

TOPIC
e.g. The Art of Branding

LEVEL
e.g. Beginner

ALREADY KNOW

GOAL
e.g. Write a brand promise

SAVING YOUR PROGRESS

On Pro, Max, Team and Enterprise plans, your course can remember your progress between sessions. On any plan, the export button saves your progress to a file you can import next time.

The *prompt.*

Copy everything inside the frame on this page and the next, from the first line to the last. The highlighted words in [BRACKETS] are yours to fill in, and anything you leave blank, Claude will ask you about.

START OF PROMPT

Build me an interactive learning dashboard as a Claude artifact that works like a personal mini course for mastering **[TOPIC]**.

ABOUT ME (IF ANY OF THESE ARE BLANK, ASK ME DURING THE INTERVIEW)

- My current level: **[BEGINNER / INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED]**
- What I want to be able to do: **[SPECIFIC OUTCOME]**
- Time I can give it: **[TIME]** per **[DAY / WEEK]** for **[NUMBER]** weeks
- Look and feel: **[BRAND COLORS, OR A FEELING LIKE "CALM AND MINIMAL"]**

STEP 1: INTERVIEW ME FIRST

Before building anything, interview me one question at a time, and wait for my answer before asking the next. Keep each question short and give me examples to choose from so it's easy to answer. Ask about:

1. What I already know about this topic, and where I learned it
2. What I want to be able to do with it in my real life or work
3. How I learn best. Offer options such as visuals and diagrams, short explanations, metaphors and analogies, seeing an example first, trying it first and then learning why, or talking it through. I can choose more than one.
4. Subjects, hobbies or experiences I know deeply, so you can build analogies from my world
5. Where I tend to lose focus or get discouraged
6. Any books, courses, notes or experts I want the course to draw from (it's fine if I say none)

If my topic includes ideas that are contested, commonly misunderstood or often misrepresented online, tell me before you build, and plan to clearly separate what is well established, what experts interpret or debate, and what is only a helpful metaphor.

When the interview is done, summarize my learner profile and your course plan in a few lines, and wait for my OK before you build.

STEP 2: BUILD A COURSE THAT ACTIVELY TEACHES

Once I've approved the plan, build the first working version. Include:

- A clear learning objective and a mastery map with five progressive levels, named in a way that connects to my world where possible
- A short diagnostic (about 8 questions) that asks my confidence before each answer and places me at the right starting level
- A "Today's Quest" area that always shows my single most important next step: the diagnostic, due reviews, the next lesson, or practice
- Lessons that follow this flow: a Socratic question I reason through before seeing any explanation; 2 to 4 short ideas, each with a plain-language explanation, a concrete example from my life or work, a simple visual diagram, a metaphor from my world and a quick check question; recall questions I answer from memory in my own words; a teach-back challenge where I explain the idea to a specific person; and a real-world application challenge in a new situation

- An analogy engine that re-explains any idea through a different part of my world when I ask
- A live AI guide I can ask questions at any point. It uses my analogies, and it never gives me the answer to a question I haven't attempted yet. Instead it offers a hint and asks me a question back.
- A spaced-repetition review queue. Correct answers given without help return after 1, 3, 7, 14, then 30 days, and shaky answers return soon.
- A misconception tracker that records misunderstandings revealed by my wrong answers and shows when I've corrected them
- Confidence ratings before and after each challenge, plus a calibration view that highlights false confidence and hidden strengths
- XP, ranks, progress bars, badges, a streak, and specific, encouraging feedback

Let my learning style shape the design itself. Show visuals up front if I'm a visual learner, put examples before explanations if I learn from examples first, and place the check question first if I like to try before learning why. Include a settings panel where I can change my learning style, analogy worlds and goal at any time. Never invent quotes, studies, statistics or sources, and if you're unsure of a fact, say so.

STEP 3: USE CLAUDE TO TEACH AND GRADE

Use Claude from inside the artifact to power the guide, the analogy engine and grading. It's fine to ask my permission the first time.

- Grade teach-backs and application answers against a clear 4 to 5 point rubric, with specific feedback on what's strong, what's missing, and one follow-up question that pushes my thinking further.
- Grade recall answers on meaning, not exact wording.
- Fully write the diagnostic and all of Level 1 into the dashboard. For Levels 2 to 5, write the level names, lesson titles and objectives, then have the guide generate each lesson in the same format when I reach it, tailored to my profile.
- If the AI features aren't available, keep Level 1 fully usable, let me self-check against the rubric for half XP, and explain clearly what the guide would add.

STEP 4: REWARD UNDERSTANDING, NOT CLICKING

- Award the most XP when I recall something without help, explain it clearly in my own words, or apply it correctly in a new situation
- Reduce XP for each hint, give no XP for revealing an answer, and give no XP just for finishing a lesson
- Make hints progressively stronger, and never show an answer until I've made a genuine attempt: I've submitted an answer, and written challenges are at least 60 characters
- Unlock a level only when I've completed its lessons, recalled its ideas without hints at 80% or better on two separate days, and scored 70% or better on at least one teach-back or application
- Include a clearly labelled preview mode in settings that unlocks all levels for testing

STEP 5: DESIGN AND SAVING

Make it beautiful, calm, motivating and simple to use, on desktop and phone, in both light and dark mode, with comfortable text sizes and short reading. Include a focus mode that hides everything except the next task. Use my look and feel from above, or ask me.

Save my progress between sessions using the artifact's built-in storage if my plan supports it, and also give me an export button that downloads my progress to a file and an import button that loads it again, so I never lose my learning history.

Build it, then tell me briefly how to test it. After I've tried it, ask me what I'd like to change about the content, difficulty, visual style or reward system.

END OF PROMPT

Working with *what comes back.*

Your first build is a starting point. Take the diagnostic, try a lesson, and notice what feels too easy, too dense or not quite like you, then tell Claude in plain words. Every round makes the course more yours.

THINGS YOU CAN ASK FOR

"Re-explain Level 1 through cooking."

"The diagnostic felt too easy. Make it harder."

"Make the lessons more visual. I learn best from diagrams."

"Add a level on pricing my signature offer."

"Use my brand colors and make it feel calm."

IF SOMETHING ISN'T WORKING

A button doesn't respond

Describe what you clicked and what happened. Claude can see its own code and can often fix it in one try.

The guide or grading is silent

Check that you allowed the course to use Claude, and ask Claude to help you turn it on if you said no by accident.

It stopped halfway

Type "please continue," or ask for one section at a time. If you reach your usage limit, come back when it resets.

Your progress disappeared

On the free plan, export at the end of each session and import next time.

A note on accuracy. AI can be confidently wrong, so the prompt asks Claude to flag what experts debate. For anything touching your health, money or legal decisions, check the key facts with a trusted expert.

IF YOU LOVE BUILDING THIS

Meet *AI Dream Team®*

The course you just built is a personal tutor for one subject. Inside AI Dream Team®, we design that same kind of personal intelligence around your whole business, so the work that keeps landing on your plate meets a team that already understands your voice, your clients and the way you do things.

Your Business Brain

One source of truth about your business, your voice and your clients, so every AI conversation starts from context instead of from scratch.

Skills built from your methods

Your best processes, captured once and reused, so the work comes back done your way.

An AI team around you

Roles for content, operations and strategy that draw from your Business Brain and work alongside you.

EXPLORE AI DREAM TEAM®



THE FUTURE THREAD

This guide is from one of the experiments I shared in The Future Thread, my newsletter for visionary entrepreneurs who want to understand where AI, business and culture are going, and what it all means for the small businesses we're building.

YES, SEND ME THE FUTURE THREAD →

It's free, it arrives twice a month, and you'll only receive it if you say yes.

Sources: Roediger and Karpicke (2006), Psychological Science 17(3). Cepeda et al. (2008), Psychological Science 19(11). Kestin et al. (2025), Scientific Reports 15. Claude plan details from support.claude.com, October 2026; features change, so check there for the latest.

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