



## Common Verbs Found in Prompts

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Use this list of verbs to help you better understand what prompts are asking you to do.

### Verbs in Prompts

- **account/trace:** summarize the development of an argument, a course of events, or the steps in a sequence.
- **analyze:** break an idea, concept, or event into smaller parts in order to study or examine it more closely.
- **argue/prove:** take a position on an issue or topic and develop reasonable claims and support it with strong, credible evidence.
- **compare:** explain how two things are similar or alike in some way.
- **contrast:** explain how two things are different in some way.
- **define:** explain the meaning of a word, concept, or idea as it is used in your class; important details may need to be included in order to help communicate meaning.
- **describe:** provide vivid, sensory details about a person, place, or thing.
- **discuss:** thoroughly analyze and evaluate an idea, concept, or event.
- **evaluate:** analyze the value or importance of something and offer judgement; describe both its strengths and weaknesses.
- **explain/interpret:** clarify and communicate information in a clear and logical way so that it is easy to understand.

*Note: There is an expectation with all prompts that students analyze and evaluate ideas even if it is not stated directly in the prompt.*