BYOD: GENERATING PLAUSIBLE CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR SCENARIOS USING AI TOOLS

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AI Tools

You can use any of these tools for this session. Your results may vary depending on the tool, but feel free to use whichever tool you prefer. The free tools are sufficient for this session. If you don't already have an account with at least one of these tools, you may need to register.

- ChatGPT
- Claude
- Gemini
- Copilot (choose Creative mode)

Brainstorming ideas

Brainstorm topics for a branching scenario in any field

Note	Use this prompt if you don't have a specific topic or audience in mind.
Prompt	You are an instructional designer. List 5 specific skills that could be trained or practiced with a branching scenario activity. The topics or skills must meet at least three of the following criteria: - Requires a series of multiple coordinated decisions - Strategic rather than procedural; not routine or repetitive - Decisions are nuanced and have shades of gray rather than being black and white - May be risky or costly to practice on the job For each skill, provide a specific example of an audience and application of that skill. Note the field or type of organization where that audience works, such as nurses in a large hospital or project managers in a software development company.

Brainstorm topics for a scenario for a specific audience

Note	Use this prompt if you already have a specific audience in mind. Customize the parts in brackets.
Prompt	You are an instructional designer. List 5 specific skills used by **[audience role]** in **[type of organization or environment]** that could be trained or practiced with a branching scenario activity. The topics or skills must meet at least three of the following criteria: - Requires a series of multiple coordinated decisions - Strategic rather than procedural; not routine or repetitive - Decisions are nuanced and have shades of gray rather than being black and white - May be risky or costly to practice on the job

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Brainstorm story ideas

Note	Use this prompt to generate ideas for a story once you identify the topic.
Prompt	You are an instructional designer who is creating a branching scenario on **[topic]**. List 5 story ideas for real-world scenarios. For each story idea, include the names of two or more characters and describe the challenge they are facing.

Scenario introduction and first question

Based on story ideas

Note	Refer back to one of the story ideas you previously prompted.
Prompt	You are an instructional designer who is an expert in branching scenarios. You're creating a branching scenario as a training practice exercise for **[audience about skill]**. Write a concise introduction to set the scene of the scenario titled **[title from the story ideas in your last prompt]**. This opening scene must include dialogue between the characters setting up the unresolved challenge. Then, ask a question with three choices about what the protagonist in the scenario, **[character name]**, should do next. Indicate which is the best option.

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Example scenario introduction and first question

Note	If you want to change some details of the story from what the AI generated, such as names, you can include the revised details in the prompt.
Example Prompt	You are an instructional designer who is an expert in branching scenarios. You're creating a branching scenario as a training practice exercise for sales executives. Write a concise introduction to set the scene of the scenario titled "The New Hire with Attitude." This opening scene must include dialogue between the characters Rita and Oliver. Oliver is a new hire who comes into the company with a lot of confidence and a "know-it-all" attitude. He clashes with his coworkers, especially Rita, who has been with the company for years and knows the ins and outs of the business. Oliver dismisses her ideas and makes her feel undervalued, causing tension and conflict between them. The scene should end as the argument becomes heated, with the conflict unresolved. Provide 3 choices of actions Rita and Oliver's manager could take after their argument. The three choices should be possible answers to the question, "As Rita and Oliver's manager, what do you do next?" Indicate which is the best option.

Consequences and choices

Prompt for consequences and choices

Note	Use this prompt to continue the scenario on a single path.
Prompt	Continue the scenario with **[option 2]**. What happens next in the scenario? Provide a description or dialogue between the characters about what happens next. Then, ask a question with three more choices.

Brief prompt to continue the scenario.

Note	If you're happy with the draft, you may be able to continue with a very brief prompt, just telling it which option you want. This typically works best after you have already used a longer prompt like the one above at least once.
Prompt	Continue with **[Option 1]**.

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Prompt for alternate path

Note	You may be able to just provide the number of the option when creating alternate paths, but the text of the choice seems to be helpful in keeping the scenario on track.
Prompt	Write an alternate path in the branching scenario. Go back to the opening scene. Continue the scenario from this choice: **[option text].**

Refining prompts

Guide the choices

Note	This is an example of a prompt to create an alternate path in a scenario. Instead of asking the AI to create the choices from scratch, this prompt gives more guidance on what each choice should be. With this prompt, you maintain more control. If you have specific points or mistakes you must include based on your analysis or work with SMEs, this structure can be effective.
Example Prompt	Continue the conversation on an alternate path, showing what would happen if the user chose "Express your frustration with their behavior and demand they find a solution immediately." Write 3-4 lines of dialogue between Rita and Oliver struggling to collaborate on a solution. Then, write a multiple choice question with 3 options for what the user could choose to do at that point. One option is the best option, acknowledging the intensity of emotions. One option is an OK option, suggesting a break. The third option is a bad response that will escalate the conflict instead of deescalating. Mark which option is the Best, OK, and Bad.

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Generate replacement choices

Note	If the initial response includes choices that don't work, prompt for a replacement. You can also try asking for two or three additional choices so you can pick the best one(s).
Example Prompt	Give me a replacement first option for this multiple choice question. This should be a wrong answer representing a mistake that a manager might make that violates one of the best practices for mediation. --------- As the mediator, what should you do next to facilitate a successful resolution? Option 1: Suggest that they vote on whose ideas to implement, potentially leading to a winner-takes-all situation.

Reduce word count

Note	AI tools aren't always consistent about precisely honoring word count requests, but asking them to shorten a passage and to target a word count usually results in a shorter version.
Prompt	Revise the previous response **[alternative: the text below]** to make it more concise. Remove extraneous language and wordiness. Reduce the word count to **[word count target]**.

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Generate ideas for choices

Best practices

Note	Best practices or guidelines for a skill can help you generate the best choices. They can also help you brainstorm possible mistakes and distractors that contradict these best practices.
Prompt	List the best practices and guidelines for **[skill]** as used by **[audience]** in **[setting]**.

Ideal process

Note	The ideal process is the steps someone would take if they did everything perfectly. I use an ideal process in planning the best path in a branching scenario. You may need to customize this with more details on the audience and context.
Prompt	List the steps a **[role]** would take to complete **[process]** in the most effective way if they did everything perfectly.

Common mistakes

Note	In an ideal world, we would all have easy access to our target audience to ask them directly what common mistakes and misconceptions stop people from performing better. Since we don't live in an ideal world, you can use this to supplement your analysis process. A list of mistakes can be a great way to brainstorm choices for scenarios, whether you write the scenario questions yourself or use AI to draft them.
Prompt	List 8-10 common mistakes people make or misconceptions people have about **[topic/skill]**. Include errors that less experienced or lower performing people in **[role]** might make that more experienced and higher performing people in **[role]** would avoid.

Contact me

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Prototype: Try out a complete branching scenario prototype written by ChatGPT.

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