



Labrador vs. Owl Prompting

Practice Handout for NADN Members

Transforming Thin Prompts into High-Value Prompts Across Complex Civil Case Types

These examples reflect the kinds of disputes NADN members actually handle.

Each Labrador prompt is intentionally vague; each Owl prompt demonstrates how to use role, context, task, and output to generate precise, professional responses.

1. COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CONTRACT DISPUTE

Labrador Prompt

“Draft a settlement proposal.”

Owl Prompt

“Act as an experienced commercial mediator assisting with proposal development in a high-value contract dispute. Using only the information I provide, draft a neutral, interest-based settlement proposal addressing financial, operational, and ongoing business considerations. Present clear options without advocacy or conclusions.”

2. EXECUTIVE EMPLOYMENT / COMPENSATION

Labrador Prompt

“Create an issue list.”

Owl Prompt

“You are a mediator preparing for an executive employment mediation involving compensation disputes, contract interpretation, and separation terms. Prepare a neutral, structured list of issues—such as compensation components, equity or bonus structures, restrictive covenants, confidentiality, and transitional arrangements—based solely on the information I provide.”

3. CONSTRUCTION DEFECT / DELAY CLAIM

Labrador Prompt

“Summarize the dispute.”

Owl Prompt

“Act as a mediator preparing a neutral summary for a construction matter involving defect claims and scheduling delays. Using the materials I provide, outline the key factual allegations, areas of disagreement, contract provisions at issue, and any technical or scheduling considerations that may require clarification. Do not assess liability.”

4. INSURANCE COVERAGE DISPUTE

Labrador Prompt

“Explain the main risks.”

Owl Prompt

“You are a mediator preparing for an insurance coverage mediation involving competing interpretations of policy language. Based solely on the information I provide, create a neutral summary of the litigation and negotiation risks—categorizing them into evidentiary, contractual, financial, and procedural risks—without offering predictions or legal advice.”

5. REAL ESTATE / COMMERCIAL LEASE

Labrador Prompt

“Draft a mediation clause.”

Owl Prompt

“Act as a mediator drafting a dispute-resolution clause for a complex commercial lease. The parties want a forward-looking mediation requirement before litigation or arbitration. Draft neutral, professional language that reflects commercial practice and encourages cooperative problem-solving.”

6. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY (Attorney, Accountant, Engineer)

Labrador Prompt

“Write a summary of the key issues.”

Owl Prompt

“You are a mediator preparing a neutral issue summary in a professional liability matter. Using only the information provided, identify allegations, claimed damages, standard-of-care questions, causation disputes, and any documentation or expert issues requiring clarification. Keep the tone neutral and avoid evaluative language.”

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (Licensing / Trade Secrets)

Labrador Prompt

“Create options for resolving the dispute.”

Owl Prompt

“Act as a mediator generating neutral, interest-based settlement options for an IP licensing and trade secret dispute. Based on the facts I provide, propose resolution pathways addressing licensing terms, royalty structures, confidentiality protections, non-use commitments, and compliance mechanisms. Do not assume facts not provided.”

8. FINANCIAL SERVICES / INVESTOR CLAIMS

Labrador Prompt

“Prepare talking points.”

Owl Prompt

“You are a mediator preparing talking points for a financial services mediation involving investor claims. Create a neutral, structured outline focusing on core issues, procedural questions, damages methodology, information the parties may need to exchange, and topics suitable for joint-session discussion.”

9. MULTIPARTY DISTRIBUTION OR SUPPLY CHAIN DISPUTE

Labrador Prompt

“Draft a summary for the mediation.”

Owl Prompt

“Act as a mediator preparing a neutral summary for a multiparty commercial dispute involving supply chain breakdowns and competing performance allegations. Using only the information provided, identify key factual themes, contractual intersections, interdependencies, and areas requiring clarification—without assigning fault or predicting outcomes.”

10. COMPLEX TORT / CATASTROPHIC LOSS (Non-PI Mediation)

Labrador Prompt

“List the strengths and weaknesses.”

Owl Prompt

“You are a mediator preparing for a complex tort mediation with substantial financial exposure. Based solely on the materials I provide, outline the strengths and weaknesses of each party’s position using neutral language and categorizing the issues into factual, evidentiary, technical, and procedural considerations. Do not give opinions.”