



# Think360 with AI

UNLIMITED THINKING WITH  
CHATGPT AND A MULTI-  
PERSPECTIVE BALCONY VIEW

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# About This Guide

Edward de Bono inspired me long ago when he said anyone can think better if they explore perspectives.

As much as I enjoyed de Bono's Six Thinking Hats and many other frameworks I've tried over the years, I grew up in Microsoft so trying to get a room full of smarties to try on imaginary hats wasn't very effective.

I eventually realized too, that I wanted not only a different language, I also wanted some perspectives I felt were missing, such as the Angel perspective to balance the Devil's Advocate everyone likes to play.

I felt innovators, creatives, and those who think different were left out too much.

I wanted to create a simple and more inclusive way to think better and think holistically.

And that's how Think360 was born.

But now, in this guide, we take it even deeper with the power of AI.

# What is the Think360 Framework?

The Think360 Framework is a simple framework I created to help people think better with perspectives.

It's based on what I learned from making high stakes decisions at Microsoft for more than 20+ years and I explored and tested many, many methodologies.

I chose and sequenced the perspectives carefully so that you can get a better balcony view when making important decisions alone or with a team.

The Think360 Framework is flexible. You don't have to use all the perspectives. The perspectives are "better together"

# 3 Key Reason to Use Think360

1. Combat Biases for Better Decisions
2. Enhance Cognitive Inclusivity and Stakeholder Engagement
3. Drive Holistic and Sustainable Solutions

# Parallel Thinking is a MUST

Edward de Bono introduced the concept of Parallel Thinking long ago.

In parallel thinking, the entire team explores each perspective together, building a shared understanding, rather than debating opposing viewpoints in isolation.

The essence of parallel thinking is that instead of taking turns exploring each perspective (e.g. Critic, Angel's Advocate, etc.), the team collectively considers all 8 perspectives together. Rather than debating and arguing, the group builds a shared understanding by collectively exploring each lens together, one lens at a time.

For example, instead of one person taking the Devil's Advocate role while another person defends the idea, the entire team would jointly consider the potential risks, weaknesses and unintended consequences before moving on to the next perspective. This inspires deeper empathy, inclusivity and a more holistic decision-making process.

The key is that parallel thinking encourages the group to think together through each viewpoint, rather than working in isolation or opposition. This promotes a collaborative, 360-degree approach to problem-solving.

# **You Don't Have to Use Parallel Thinking All the Time**

Only use it for meetings where you don't want to get stuck in conflict, have fights, or get drained or worn out.

And only use it for meetings where you want fruitful and inclusive exploration of different perspectives and viewpoints.

# The Think360 Framework at a Glance

The Think360 Framework outlines 8 perspectives to draw from when approaching a problem or decision.

The 8 perspectives are:

1. Facts (The Analyst Lens)
2. Feelings (The Empathy Lens)
3. Feasibility (The Realist Lens)
4. Future (The Visionary Lens)
5. Positivity (The Optimist Hat)
6. Critique (The Devil's Advocate Lens)
7. Imagination (The Creative Lens)
8. Angel's Advocate (The Supporter Lens)

# Questions to Practice, Explore, and Exploit Each Perspective

1. **Facts (The Analyst Lens):** "What objective information do we have about the current situation?"
2. **Feelings (The Empathy Lens):** "How do the stakeholders and team members feel about this issue or proposed solution?"
3. **Feasibility (The Realist Lens):** "What resources, constraints, and logistical factors must we consider to determine if this solution is viable?"
4. **Future (The Visionary Lens):** "What long-term trends and potential future scenarios should we consider to ensure our decision is sustainable?"
5. **Positivity (The Optimist Hat):** "What strengths and opportunities can we leverage to maximize the positive outcomes of this decision?"
6. **Critique (The Devil's Advocate Lens):** "What are the potential risks, weaknesses, and unintended consequences of this decision?"
7. **Imagination (The Creative Lens):** "What innovative and unconventional ideas can we explore to solve this problem in new ways?"
8. **Angel's Advocate (The Supporter Lens):** "Why is this idea valuable, and how can we amplify its positive impacts to ensure success?"



# How To Introduce Think360 to Your Team?

Hey, we're making some significant decisions here...

***“Can we Think360 on this?”***

Think360?...What's that you say?

It's a simple thinking framework to help us think through tough stuff better.

It's a framework of 8 perspectives to draw from to help us be more inclusive and build better empathy for multiple perspectives so we make better decisions.

It helps us rise above our biases and explore ideas better and take the balcony view, so we avoid common pitfalls.

# **How You Can Use AI with Think360 to Augment Yourself**

# Overview of Using AI with Think360

We're going to walk how to use AI with the 8 perspectives of Think360.

This is just a starter set to get you going and growing.

You will quickly find that you can tune, prune, and improve any of the prompts I share here to gain a new level of insight and action.

Note that while I default to ChatGPT, you can use your AI chat bot of choice.

Be prepared to amaze yourself how just by using Think360 and exploring perspectives, you will 10X your thinking (if not more).

Get ready to eliminate stinking thinking and unleash unlimited thinking with Think360 and the power of AI...

# 1. Facts (The Analyst Lens)

## Prompt for ChatGPT using the Analyst Lens:

"As an objective analyst, can you provide me with the key facts and objective information we have about the current [insert problem or decision here]? What data, statistics, or other empirical evidence should we consider when evaluating this situation?"

## ChatGPT Response:

"Based on my analysis, the key facts and objective information we have about the current [problem/decision] are:

[ChatGPT provides a concise summary of the relevant facts, data, and objective information pertaining to the situation]

## #2. Feelings (The Empathy Lens)

### Prompt for ChatGPT using the Empathy Lens:

"From an empathetic point of view, how do you think our key stakeholders (customers, employees, investors, etc.) would feel about this [problem/decision]? What concerns or hopes might they have?"

### ChatGPT Response:

"Putting myself in the shoes of our key stakeholders, I imagine they might feel:

- Customers: [Describe how customers might feel, their concerns, hopes, etc. regarding the problem/decision]
- Employees: [Describe how employees might feel, their concerns, hopes, etc. regarding the problem/decision]
- Investors: [Describe how investors might feel, their concerns, hopes, etc. regarding the problem/decision]

# #3. Feasibility (The Realist Lens)

## Prompt for ChatGPT using the Feasibility Lens:

"From a realistic and practical standpoint, what key resources, constraints, and logistical factors should we carefully consider as we evaluate options for addressing this [problem/decision]?"

## ChatGPT Response:

- "Evaluating the feasibility of potential solutions for this [problem/decision], the key factors we should consider include:
  - Required financial, human, and technological resources
  - Timeline and milestones for implementation
  - Operational and organizational constraints (e.g. existing processes, systems, policies)
  - Regulatory requirements or industry standards that must be met
  - Potential risks, dependencies, and points of failure that could impact the solution

## #4. Future (The Visionary Lens)

### Prompt for ChatGPT using the Visionary Lens:

"From a forward-looking, visionary perspective, what is the ideal future state we could achieve by successfully addressing this [problem/decision]? What opportunities or possibilities should we be aspiring towards?"

### ChatGPT Response:

"Adopting a visionary lens, I can see the following possibilities and ideal future state if we are able to effectively address this [problem/decision]:

- [Describe the positive, aspirational future state - what would success look like? What new opportunities or improvements could be realized?]
- [Expand on how this future vision aligns with the organization's long-term goals and purpose]
- [Highlight any transformative or innovative elements of this future vision that go beyond incremental improvements]

## #5. Positivity (The Optimist Hat)

### Prompt for ChatGPT using the Optimist Lens:

"From an optimistic point of view, how might addressing this [problem/decision] present opportunities or lead to positive outcomes that we should be excited about?"

### ChatGPT Response:

"Approaching this [problem/decision] with an optimistic mindset, I can see several potential upsides and positive outcomes we should be excited about:

- [Describe the potential benefits, upside potential, or silver linings that could come from successfully addressing the problem/decision]
- [Highlight any ways in which this challenge could be a chance for growth, innovation, or competitive advantage]
- [Emphasize the inspiring or motivating aspects of working towards a positive resolution]



## #6. Critique (The Devil's Advocate Lens)

### Prompt for ChatGPT using the Devil's Advocate Lens:

"From a critical, devil's advocate perspective, what are the potential downsides, risks, or weaknesses we should carefully consider regarding this [problem/decision]? What counterarguments or skeptical viewpoints might we need to address?"

### ChatGPT Response:

"Adopting a devil's advocate perspective, here are some of the potential downsides, risks, and weaknesses we should carefully consider regarding this [problem/decision]:

- [Describe potential negative consequences, drawbacks, or unintended effects that could arise]
- [Outline critical assumptions that may be flawed or areas of uncertainty that need further examination]
- [Raise counterarguments or skeptical viewpoints that challenge the merits of proposed solutions]
- [Highlight any implementation challenges, organizational resistance, or other obstacles that could derail the effort]

# #7. Imagination (The Creative Lens)

## Prompt for ChatGPT using the Creative Lens:

"What innovative and unconventional ideas can we explore to solve this [problem/decision] in new ways?"

## ChatGPT Response:

"Approaching this challenge through a creative, imaginative lens, here are some innovative and unconventional ideas we could explore:

- [Describe a bold, outside-the-box concept or solution that departs from the obvious or conventional approaches]
- [Propose an unexpected combination of existing elements or technologies that could lead to a breakthrough]
- [Suggest a creative reframing of the problem that opens up new solution spaces]
- [Identify any analogous situations or industries where innovative solutions could be adapted]
- [Brainstorm "what-if" scenarios that push the boundaries of what's considered possible]

## #8. Angel's Advocate (The Supporter Lens)

### Prompt for ChatGPT using the Supporter Lens:

"From a supportive, encouraging perspective, how might we best enable and empower the team to successfully address this [problem/decision]? What resources, assistance, or coaching could we provide?"

### ChatGPT Response:

"Approaching this challenge from a supportive, 'angel's advocate' perspective, here are some ways we can enable and empower the team to successfully address this [problem/decision]:

- [Identify any skills, knowledge, or capabilities the team may need to develop or strengthen in order to tackle this challenge]
- [Propose helpful resources, tools, or subject matter experts that could provide guidance and support]
- [Suggest ways to foster a collaborative, constructive work environment that encourages creativity and problem-solving]
- [Recommend coaching, training, or mentorship opportunities that could build the team's confidence and problem-solving abilities]
- [Outline how we could provide encouragement, recognition, and constructive feedback to keep the team motivated and engaged]

**Can We Think360 On This?**

Let's use the challenge of  
developing a new product  
or service offering...

# **#1. Facts (The Analyst Lens)**

Prompt for ChatGPT using the Analyst Lens:

"As an objective analyst, can you provide me with the key facts and data we should consider about the current market demand, customer needs, competitive landscape, and any other relevant information for developing a new product or service?"

# ChatGPT Response

ChatGPT response (Analyst Lens):

"Based on my analysis, the key facts and objective information we should consider include:

- Market size and growth trends for the product/service category
- Detailed customer demographics, pain points, and unmet needs
- Competitive products, features, pricing, and market share
- Industry regulations, technology trends, and other external factors
- Internal capabilities, resources, and constraints we have to work with"

## **#2. Feelings (The Empathy Lens)**

Prompt for ChatGPT using the Empathy Lens:

"From an empathetic perspective, how do you think our key stakeholders (customers, employees, investors, etc.) would feel about the idea of developing this new product or service? What concerns or hopes might they have?"



# ChatGPT Response

ChatGPT response (Empathy Lens):

"Putting myself in the shoes of our key stakeholders, I imagine they might feel:

- Customers: Excited about a potential solution to their unmet needs, but cautious about trying something new
- Employees: Energized by the opportunity to innovate, but anxious about the added workload and potential changes
- Investors: Optimistic about the market potential, but worried about the risks and required investment"

# **You Get It, That's the Idea, Just Cycle Through Each Lens**

And so on, cycling through the remaining 6 Think360 perspectives with relevant prompts for ChatGPT. This would allow you to thoroughly explore the problem from multiple angles before converging on potential solutions.

The power of this approach is that it encourages you to consider the full context and complexity of the decision, rather than jumping straight to solutions. It also promotes cognitive diversity and empathy, which can lead to more innovative and sustainable outcomes.

# How To Use Think360 Better (and Extend It)

- If the names of the lenses don't work for you, change them.
- If you feel a lens is missing, add one
- Add or augment lenses to augment your thinking
- Add or augment lenses to augment your team's thinking

If, for example, your team sucks at action, then be sure to add a very explicit Action lens.

If, for example, your team sucks at thinking of the future, by all means make sure you slow down to speed up.

You don't need to use all the perspectives or lenses, but all the lenses and perspective are better together.

# Getting Started

## 1. Establish the Think360 Mindset

1. Explain to the team that you'll be exploring 8 different lenses or perspectives to analyze the problem or decision at hand.
2. Emphasize the importance of maintaining an open, curious, and non-judgmental attitude as you cycle through the various lenses.
3. Set the expectation that the goal is to develop a well-rounded, multi-faceted understanding, not to simply choose one "right" perspective.

## 2. Work Through the Eight Lenses

1. Guide the team systematically through the eight lenses: Analyst, Empathy, Realist, Visionary, Optimist, Devil's Advocate, Creative, and Supporter (Angel's Advocate).
2. For each lens, use the specific prompts to shift the team's mindset and generate insights from that perspective.
3. Capture the key takeaways, opportunities, risks, and ideas that emerge from each lens.

## 3. Synthesize and Activate

1. Review the insights gathered from the eight lenses and identify common themes, complementary ideas, and potential tradeoffs.
2. Synthesize the information into a holistic understanding of the problem or decision, accounting for analytical, emotional, visionary, critical, supportive, and pragmatic viewpoints.
3. Translate the synthesized insights into a clear action plan, outlining specific next steps, resources, and support needed to make progress.
4. Assign responsibilities, set milestones, and establish a cadence for checking in and iterating on the plan.

# Surprise Me?

Surprise me with the creative ways you use Think360.

Surprise me with how you drive adoption in your team, your org, the world.

Share with me your amazing stories of how Think360 instantly helped you change your game and become a better thinker.

Tell me your stories that inspire you that might inspire others how Think360 can create a better world where we embrace those who think different, those who challenge us, and those Angels who support us to become the greatest version of ourselves.

# Where to Grow for More?

For more proven practices in  
leadership, innovation, and high  
performance follow me, JD Meier,  
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Unleash Your  
Greatest Impact!