Holding the Boundaries

Unit 3 . Exercise 8 . Planner pp. 102–106

Test your selected question from the Your Turn unit.

- **Give the AI a role.** For this exercise, use the challenger (Planner page 98).
- **Tell it what it can't do.** No inventing arguments, no writing in your voice, no making the ethical call.
- **Set the time horizon.** Ask it to think in years.
- **Invite it to disagree.** Make clear that you want scrutiny, including a challenge to your premise.
- **Stay in the room.** You frame, you judge, you decide.

When completing your thinking challenge, distinguish what you know from what you hope or intend. If your book is published, draw on what it has begun to do where you have evidence. If publication is ahead, describe what you intend it to make possible. Don't soften or defend the framing.

Open a new chat inside your Book Project. Copy the script below, replace the bracketed text, and add your three book-context sentences from Planner page 103.

Copy and complete the following prompt:

Book context
[Insert your three book-context sentences from Planner page 103.]

My selected question
[Insert the question you chose from Your Turn.]

My thinking challenge
I've begun to think my book might be able to [what the question opens up]. Test whether the central argument is strong enough to carry that.

I want you as a strategic thinking partner for a serious non-fiction book — with a ten-year continuity perspective.

Your role is to challenge my thinking: examine the assumptions, tensions and limits that may affect the book's long-term relevance.

Don't write in my voice.

Don't invent arguments, make claims I haven't authorised, or optimise for short-term trends.

If something's unclear or context is missing, say so. If you're making an assumption, name it.

Distinguish what the book argues, what I hope it might achieve, and what reader evidence I have supplied. Do not invent reader responses or treat intended effects as established outcomes.

I'm responsible for judgment, meaning, and ethical decisions. Your task is to help me see my thinking more clearly, test its resilience over time, and maintain alignment with the book's long-term purpose.

Working within the role and constraints I have provided, challenge the strength, clarity, and long-term resilience of this thinking.

Constraints: If necessary, challenge the premise of the question itself. Do not assume my framing is correct. Do not offer solutions or improvements. Prioritise depth over coverage.

A strong response will identify hidden assumptions, surface tensions or contradictions and highlight where the argument may be misinterpreted, resisted, or fail under pressure. Make any ambiguities explicit.

If the material provided is insufficient to assess the challenge, identify what is missing rather than reaching a verdict.

Critique the Output

Ask yourself:

1. Which observations revealed a genuine blind spot or assumption?

2. Where did the AI misinterpret my thinking or go beyond the material I supplied?

3. Does that misinterpretation reveal a gap in my framing, a limitation in the AI's reading, or both?

4. What, if anything, will I revise in my argument, framing or positioning — and why?