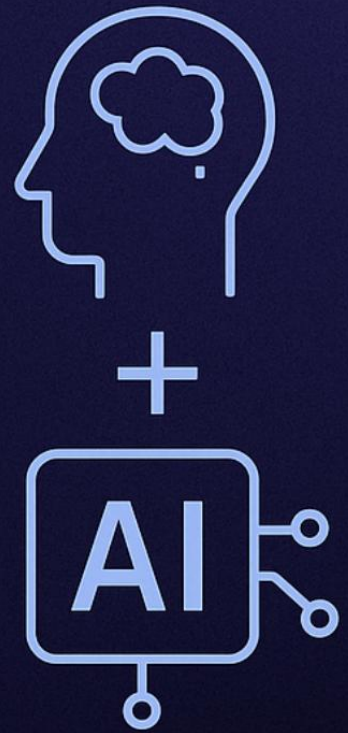


# HOW TO USE AI AS YOUR THINKING PARTNER



Not to outsource your brain—but to upgrade your thinking.

[Upgrade Your Thinking →](#)

JD Meier

**“The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function.”**

— F. Scott Fitzgerald

**“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”**

— Aristotle

**“It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.”**

— Mark Twain

# Don't Outsource Your Thinking to AI. Pair Up.

**Most people use AI wrong.**

They treat it like a search engine or a to-do machine. But that's not thinking—it's outsourcing.

What's the real risk?

You lose your edge.

Your critical thinking atrophies.

You stop growing.

**We don't need weaker thinkers. We need smarter ones.**

Ones who *use* AI to **amplify** their clarity, their strategy, their creativity.

# How I Built Intellectual Horsepower at Microsoft

At Microsoft, I became known for a special skill:  
**Intellectual Horsepower.**

I didn't start that way.  
I built it—deliberately.

I curated massive libraries of frameworks.  
tested mental models on tough, global challenges.  
I used Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats,  
Vervago's Precision Questions and Answers,  
Mind Mapping, Argumentation Maps—  
and every way I could find to **see, structure, and solve problems.**

I used them to build strategies,  
drive disruption,  
and innovate to create new value around the world.

# How You Can Build Your Bionic Mind

The metaphor I use for augmenting my thinking with AI is this:

## **A Bionic Mind.**

It's not about replacing your brain.

It's about **enhancing** it—

so you can think deeper, faster, and with more precision than ever before.

## **What's the key to building a Bionic Mind?**

Learn how to think *with* AI, not *through* it.

**Thinking through AI** means letting AI do the thinking for you. You type a prompt, take the answer, and move on. It's passive. You're outsourcing your mind.

**Thinking with AI means** using it as a cognitive partner. You co-create. You reflect, refine, question, and evolve your ideas in real time. It's active. You're augmenting your mind.

This next set of slides shows you how.

# 1. Flip Your Intent: From Answers to Insight

Most people ask AI for solutions. Great thinkers ask it for clarity.

**Instead of:**

“What should I do?”

**Ask:**

“What are 3 ways to look at this?”

“What would Peter Drucker or Steve Jobs ask here?”

“What am I not seeing?”

*Use it to reveal blind spots, challenge assumptions, and reframe problems.*

## 2. Think in Dialogues, Not Prompts

Treat AI like a thought partner sitting across from you.

Don't just drop a one-liner.  
Have a back-and-forth.  
Push, probe, reframe.

### **Example:**

**You:** "I'm stuck on this decision."

**AI:** "Let's clarify your priorities. What's the outcome you want most?"

**You:** "I want long-term growth over quick wins."

**AI:** "Okay—then which path has compounding effects?"

*The gold is in the follow-ups.*

# 3. Load Context Like a Pro

AI gets smarter the more context you give it. This is the game-changer.

Tell it things like:

- Your goals
- Who you're talking to
- The stage you're at
- The tension you're facing

## **Example:**

“I’m a founder preparing a pitch. I want to win strategic investors who value long-term impact over fast exits. Help me refine my narrative.”

*Don't hide your brain. Upload it.*

# 4. Use Lenses to Unlock New Thinking

Switch between mental models, personas, or frameworks to get different angles.

## **Ask:**

“What would a strategist say?”

“Now give me the artist’s perspective.”

“What if I used first principles?”

“Can you map this using Vision → Value → Velocity?”

*You’re more than generating ideas—  
you’re sharpening your lens.*

# 5. Stress Test Your Thinking

Great thinking isn't just building ideas. It's breaking them.

Use AI to:

- Spot weaknesses in your argument
- Find counterpoints
- Challenge your confidence

## **Example:**

“Play devil’s advocate and tell me why this won’t work.”

“What would a skeptic say?”

“How would a competitor use this against me?”

*This is how you build robust, anti-fragile thinking.*

# 6. Build Thinking Tools (Custom GPTs or Patterns)

Once you find flows that work (e.g., a way of clarifying strategy, making better decisions, or rewriting offers), codify them.

You can:

- Create a **Custom GPT** with your go-to moves
- Build **thinking templates** (e.g., JD's Clarity Sprints, Strategic Sparring, Role Lens Insights)
- Use **projects in ChatGPT** to store and continue your thinking with context over time

*Now you've built thinking systems—not just thought once.*

# 7. Reflect and Iterate

Ask AI:

“What was helpful about this? What could we improve next time?”

“What’s the meta lesson I can extract here?”

You’re more than building ideas.

You’re building a better version of your brain.

# How to Use AI as Your Thinking Partner

## Summary:

- Seek clarity, not just answers
- Have rich, evolving conversations
- Feed it deep, real context
- Use different perspectives and mental models
- Stress test your ideas
- Codify thinking flows into reusable tools
- Reflect to get smarter each round

Free Workshop

# AI FOR LEADERS



JD Meier



Oliver Aust

Learn how to **think better, lead better, and communicate better with AI.**

If you're feeling behind with AI, this is your chance to **catch up and leapfrog** into your future.

Oliver Aust and I will help you **augment your leadership with AI** and **master better mindsets, skillsets and toolsets** to bring out your best.

## TWO FREE SESSIONS:

June 18th, 10 AM PST / 7pm CEST

June 20th, 10 AM PST / 7pm CEST

These are live virtual sessions (not in person).

Join us—Register for free:

[bit.ly/43OmYA4](https://bit.ly/43OmYA4)

