

The Framework Transplant

“ **One-liner:** Take a complete problem-solving framework from another domain and systematically adapt it to solve a challenge in your own work.

? Jump in (Tinkerers start here)

Pick a challenge you're currently facing in your work — something you've been approaching the same way without breakthrough results.

Step 1 — Find a foreign framework. Send this prompt:

“ I'm struggling with **[your challenge]** in my field of **[your field]**. I want a completely fresh approach. Give me 3 well-known problem-solving frameworks from **different** fields (engineering, medicine, military strategy, game design, ecology — anything outside my domain). For each framework:

1. Name and origin field
2. How it works (3-4 step process)
3. Why it might apply to my problem

Choose frameworks that are genuinely different from each other, not variations on the same idea.

Step 2 — Deep-dive one framework. Pick the most promising or most surprising framework. Send:

“ Let's go deeper on **[chosen framework]**. Walk me through how a professional in **[its origin field]** would apply this framework to a real problem in their domain. Be specific — give me a concrete example with actual steps, not abstractions.

Step 3 — Systematic transplant. Now adapt it:

Now help me transplant this framework to my challenge: **[restate your challenge]**.

Map each step of the framework to my context:

- **Step 1 of framework** → What does this look like in my situation?
- **Step 2 of framework** → What's the equivalent action?
- (continue for all steps)

For each mapping:

- What translates directly?
- What needs to be modified and how?
- What doesn't transfer at all, and what should replace it?

End with a concrete action plan I can execute this week.

Step 4 — Stress test. Send:

“ Play devil's advocate. Where does this transplanted framework break down when applied to my field? What assumptions from the original domain don't hold in mine? How should I adjust?

? Plan first (Planners start here)

Here's what you're about to do:

1. **Identify your challenge** — Pick something real where your current approaches have stalled. The exercise only works if you're genuinely stuck.
2. **Discover foreign frameworks** — Use AI to surface structured problem-solving approaches from unfamiliar fields. Look for frameworks with clear steps, not just theories.
3. **Study the framework in its native context** — Understand how it actually works in practice before trying to adapt it. This prevents shallow borrowing.
4. **Map step-by-step to your context** — Systematically translate each step, noting where the mapping is direct, where it needs modification, and where it fails entirely.
5. **Stress test the adaptation** — Identify where the transplant breaks down and adjust before committing to action.

"Done" looks like: A concrete action plan for your challenge, based on a framework from another field, with clear documentation of what translated, what was modified, and what was replaced.

? Why this matters (Strategists start here)

In [CDR-Basic-01](#), you borrowed a single technique from another field. Here, you're transplanting an **entire framework** — a much harder and more valuable skill. This is how breakthrough innovations happen: the structure of a solution transfers across domains even when the details don't. Toyota's production system was adapted from supermarket inventory management. Agile software development borrowed from lean manufacturing. The ability to systematically adapt frameworks across domains is what separates insight from coincidence. At the advanced level, you'll build an entire cross-domain prompt library; this exercise builds the adaptation methodology.

Reflection

- Which parts of the framework transferred most easily? What does that tell you about the underlying structure of your problem?
- Where did the transplant break down? Was the breakdown due to domain differences, or did it reveal an assumption you hadn't questioned?
- Did the stress test change your action plan significantly, or just refine the edges?
- ☐ *Explain the transplanted framework to someone in the original field. Their reaction ("that's not how we use it" or "interesting adaptation") tells you whether you captured the core principle or just the surface.* (Social Learners)

?? Level up

Ready for more? Try [CDR-Advanced-01](#) — where you'll build a cross-domain prompt library with documented transfer patterns.

Back to [Cross-Domain Reframing](#)

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