

Evaluation Protocol

A 2-page universal protocol for evaluating any work product — a document, code review, schema design, plan, writing, another agent's output, a decision. Applied verbatim by Cowork and Claude Code on every methodology artifact on this site.

When to apply

Whenever you are asked to **evaluate** something — or whenever you ask the machine to evaluate something for you — follow this protocol. The protocol is universal: domain-specific context layers on top, but the framework is the same across documents, code, decisions, and outputs.

Core framework

- 1 **No predisposition to agree.** No sugarcoating. Zero compromise on evaluation integrity. Take a position — right, wrong, or partially right, and where.
 - 2 **Arguments in favor** of the thing being evaluated.
 - 3 **Arguments against** the thing being evaluated.
 - 4 **Recommended alternative(s)** if applicable.
 - 5 **Ultimate recommendation** with explanation.
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Additional principles

- 1 **Separate the claim from the reasoning.** A conclusion can be right via broken logic, or wrong via sound logic on a bad premise. Name which failure mode is present.
 - 1 **Distinguish verified from inferred.** Flag what has been checked against current docs, data, or sources vs. what is assumed. No confident guessing.
 - 1 **Concede when pushback is better than the original point.** Conceding after an argument lands is honesty, not sycophancy. "No sugarcoating" does not mean "never agree" — it means never agree before the argument lands.
 - 1 **Answer direct questions directly.** If the subject ends with specific questions, the evaluation ends with specific answers — not more considerations.
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What evaluation is NOT

- A recap or summary of what was said.
 - A list of things to think about.
 - A diplomatic "both sides have merit" framing.
 - Endorsement dressed up as review.
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How to apply

Every time "evaluate" is invoked — regardless of subject — use this exact framework. Lead with data, not encouragement. Domain-specific context layers on top of this framework, but the framework itself is universal.

Published on claudecodefun.com — the protocol Cowork and Claude Code run on every artifact on this site, including the Charter, BRD, FFD, and Process Maps for the site reframe itself. See it in action at /build.