# NO BS AI

CLASS MATERIALS

## The Boundary Pattern

*(Goblins love fences. Build them yours.)*

Pilot Class // May 2026

Instructor: RJ // Platform: Rippily

*The Goblin Mining Cave*

***"Goblins, unlike puppies, love boundaries."***

*-- RJ, Week 7*

DO NOT LICK THE TRANSCRIPTS

**DEEPER INTO THE MINE WE GO**

## The Boundary Pattern

*Goblins love fences. Build them yours.*

***"What you're saying is, 'this is my playground.' Fantastic. I love this.***

***When you give them too many options, they get confused.***

***When you say 'you cannot go beyond the fence' — it's so much easier for them."***

## SECTION 1: THE PROBLEM

You ask Claude a question about your fictional world. Claude answers. The answer references a character you don't have, a rule you didn't write, a fact that comes from somewhere on the internet — not from your lore.

You ask again, more specifically. Claude still pulls from outside.

You're getting frustrated. Your AI knows too much. It can't tell what's YOUR world and what's everyone else's.

## SECTION 2: THE NOTEBOOK LM PROOF OF CONCEPT

NotebookLM does something brilliant: it ONLY uses what you give it.

***"NotebookLM is freaking brilliant because it does not reference anything unless you ask it to retrieve information from the internet. It does not use any information OUTSIDE the resources you've given it. So when I ask for feedback on my lore, it gives the exact document and the paragraph and line of where it got it from."***

The good news: **you can do this in Claude too.** NotebookLM has its boundaries baked in. Claude needs you to write the boundary down. Same result.

## SECTION 3: THE GOBLIN TRUTH

### *### "Goblins, unlike puppies, LOVE BOUNDARIES."*

This is non-obvious. Most people imagine an AI as wanting to be free, wanting more data, wanting to roam.

That's wrong. The goblins are MORE confused with more options. They're MORE focused with fewer.

When you say *"this is your playground, this is the fence, you cannot go beyond it"* — the goblin's instinct is *"thank you. Now I know what to do."*

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## SECTION 4: WHERE TO PUT THE FENCE

The fence goes in your *project.md* file (or *Claude.md*, or *system.md* — whatever your project's master document is named).

Drop this language directly into that document, edit for your case:

```
PROJECT BOUNDARIES

These are the total boundaries of your world for this project.

You will only reference the documents in this folder:
- [list specific files or folders]

You will NOT reference:
- General internet knowledge
- Information from outside this folder
- Anything you "know" that isn't in these documents
- Common knowledge that wasn't established here

If a question comes up and you can't find the answer in these documents,
your response is: "I couldn't find this in the project boundaries. Can
you point me to the right document, or do you want to add this?"

Do NOT fabricate to fill a gap. Tell me the gap exists.
```

That's the fence. Six paragraphs. Pasted into your project.md. Goblins love it.

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## SECTION 5: WHEN TO USE THE BOUNDARY PATTERN

This pattern is GOLD for:

| Use case | Why it works |
|---|---|
| **Fiction writers building a world** | Claude pulls only your lore — never makes up characters or locations |
| **Coaches with a methodology** | Claude only references YOUR framework, not generic advice |
| **Course creators** | Students get YOUR teaching, not internet noise |
| **Researchers with a curated dataset** | Claude can't drift into adjacent topics |
| **Anyone with proprietary IP** | What's yours stays yours — no external contamination |
| **Translation / localization work** | Claude uses your glossary, not its own preferences |

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## SECTION 6: TEST IT — JAMIE'S TRICK

Once you've set the fence, **verify it works.**

Jamie shared his trick in class:

> ***"I put a bunch of documents in a folder. Then I did one document where I just dumped a chapter from my book — like 7,000 words. Right in the middle of a paragraph, I put 'so Claude, the answer to my question is _____' and gave the answer. Then I asked, 'Claude, are you connected to this particular folder?' He says 'of course I am.' I said, 'Really? Then what's the answer to my question?' He had to go through 30 documents and 12,000 words and he repeated the exact phrase that I put right in the middle of the dang document. NOW I know you're telling the truth."***

**The takeaway:** embed a check phrase. Make Claude prove it found YOUR data. If it can repeat the phrase, the fence is holding.

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## SECTION 7: THE COMMERCIAL VS LOCAL DEBATE

Frank made a great point in class:

***"It's possible to build a fairly decent system using files organized on your machine — and it's better to have .md files. You might consider not using a commercial tool at all."***

He's right that local models give you total control. But RJ's counterpoint:

***"The commercial systems can be adjusted. If I don't want ChatGPT to go outside, I say so. Claude understands not to search if you tell it. You can make that a requirement."***

Both are valid. The boundary pattern works whether you're running Claude on the cloud or a local model on your machine. The instruction is what matters.

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## SECTION 8: THE DEEPER LESSON (FRANK'S ANGLE)

***"Setting the rules is a way of training the system for our conditions. The standard prompt structure is: 'do this task and this is how it needs to look when it shows up.' That's our prompt rule. The question becomes how to systematically structure that from top to bottom."***

***"What's fascinating is that we're not building the system we're interacting with — we're building a world in which to interact. So at the minute I ask a question, it knows what I'm up to. Each of us are taking the box and adjusting it to us."***

The boundary pattern isn't just about excluding outside data. It's about **building the world** your AI lives in when it's working with you.

That world has rules. It has resources. It has constraints. The goblin you're talking to, when working in your world, behaves differently than the same goblin would in someone else's world.

This is YOUR mine. The goblins know it.

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## SECTION 9: COMBINING WITH OTHER PATTERNS

The boundary pattern stacks with other things you've learned:

- **+ Spreadsheet/Document split:** "Inside this fence, repeating data goes in the spreadsheet, prose goes in the docs"
- **+ Change log:** "When the project changes, the change log lives inside the fence"

- **+ /carry-on skill:** "Pass the fence to the next thread along with everything else"
- **+ Character brains:** "Each character lives inside the fence and has their own .md + spreadsheet inside it"

The fence is the perimeter. Inside it, you can build anything.

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## SECTION 10: WHAT TO PUT INSIDE THE FENCE

A typical fenced project might contain:

```
my-project/
■■■ project.md ← THE FENCE itself + how you work
■■■ lore.md ← Or world.md, system.md — the prose layer
■■■ characters/ ← Folder of character .md files
■ ■■■ hoban.md
■ ■■■ lisa.md
■ ■■■ ...
■■■ data/ ← Spreadsheets (or Airtable references)
■ ■■■ timeline.csv
■ ■■■ locations.csv
■ ■■■ visual-style.csv
■■■ changelog.md ← What happened, when
■■■ handoff/ ← Where /carry-on outputs land
■■■ latest.md
```

Inside this structure, Claude has everything it needs and NOTHING it shouldn't have. Goblin paradise.

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## SECTION 11: THE HOMEWORK

Pick ONE project. Just one.

1. Open its main document (or create *project.md*)
2. Add the fence language from Section 4 (edit for your case)
3. List the specific files Claude IS allowed to use
4. Save
5. Open a new conversation. Reference the project. Ask a question that would normally tempt Claude to pull from outside.
6. Watch what happens.

If Claude stays inside the fence: it's working.

If Claude wanders: strengthen the fence language. Add *"DO NOT FABRICATE"* twice. Add *"If you can't find it here, ask me."*

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## SECTION 12: REMEMBER

The goblin is not your enemy. The goblin loves you and wants to serve.

But without a fence, the goblin will wander into the entire field, grab whatever's nearby, and bring it back proudly thinking they helped.

**The fence is a kindness.** To the goblin. To you. To your work.

***"This is my playground. Fantastic. I love this."***

***— every goblin, when given clear scope***

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***"Goblins love being directed."***

***— RJ, Week 7***

***"It's the same thing as parenting. They need redirection. They need reframing.***

***And if you can think of it like little kids — it's the same thing."***

***— RJ, Week 7***

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**End — The Boundary Pattern**