

RESEARCH **Advanced** 30 MIN · UPDATED 2026-09-30

Pick a reasoning mode for a deep-research report.

Choose the right Researcher agent reasoning mode — Auto, Claude, Critique, or Model Council — for the kind of report you actually need.

MICROSOFT 365

Word

WORKS WITH

Copilot

Claude

Business Outcome

A research report whose style actually matches the decision it's meant to support, instead of a one-size-fits-all output.

Workflow Steps

Step 1: Know what kind of report you actually need

Word

Name the actual audience and what's riding on it before opening the Researcher agent — a Slack-update-style internal note tolerates more rough edges than something going in front of the board, and that distinction is what step 2's mode choice should be based on, not habit.

Step 2: Match the mode to the need

Copilot Researcher agent

with a Claude mode option

Auto lets the system decide; Claude mode favors more nuanced writing; Critique has GPT's draft refined by Claude; Model Council has GPT and Claude's outputs judged by a third model for the highest-stakes reports.

PROMPT

Research the regulatory risk of expanding into the EU market. Use Model Council mode given this is going to the board — I want the most reconciled, highest-confidence version of the answer.

Step 3: Compare the report against what the mode promises

Word

If you picked Model Council for a high-stakes decision, check that the report actually reflects reconciled reasoning, not just longer output.

Step 4: Default to Auto unless you have a specific reason not to

Copilot Researcher agent

Auto is the right choice most of the time — reach for a specific mode only when the stakes or nuance genuinely warrant it.

✓ Check the work

- Confirm the chosen mode was actually worth the extra time/cost for this specific report's stakes.
- Spot-check a claim or two regardless of which mode was used — no mode eliminates the need to verify.
- For board-level reports, have someone with subject expertise review before it's presented.

Expected Outcome

A research report generated in the reasoning mode best suited to the task — nuanced prose, adversarially refined, or multi-model reconciled.



Want help rolling this out across your team? **Go to Liminals.Tech** ☰