

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Your National History Day® (NHD) Project

NHD students develop projects based on historical research related to an annual theme and present their conclusions. If you participate in NHD, you agree to present work that is your unique academic product. Academic integrity is at the core of NHD.

- You are encouraged to use tools such as library databases, computer programs (e.g., word processing, graphic design, web builders, video editing software, etc.), and the internet to complete your project.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an emerging technology and tool. Like any tool, it has its limitations.
- Students are not required to use AI tools (e.g., chatbots, video generators, art generators, code generators, text generators, etc.) to participate in NHD.
- If you are going to use AI, you need to use it properly.



Ways You May Use AI

- ✓ Brainstorming topic ideas
- ✓ Brainstorming key words to research a topic
- ✓ Looking for resources you can find in a school or local library
- ✓ Reviewing your writing for grammatical and punctuation mistakes
- ✓ Simplifying the language in a source to make it more understandable



Ways You May Not Use AI

- ✗ Letting AI create elements of your project for you. For example, do not use AI to write text or create charts, graphs, images, or video for your project.
- ✗ Letting AI do your topic analysis for you. Your analysis and the wording of your analysis should be uniquely your own.
- ✗ While AI tools can recommend sources, they cannot provide accurate evidence or quotations. AI tools often **hallucinate** when asked to do so.

You can use an AI chatbot to begin your research.

For example, if you are interested in WWII, you could ask a chatbot to help you brainstorm topic ideas and keywords for your research.

Questions:

- What are several important battles during WWII?
- What keywords should I use when researching the Battle of Midway?
- What libraries and archives have primary sources on the Battle of Midway?
- What historians have written about the Battle of Midway?

AI is known to **hallucinate** or provide made-up or incorrect information, especially with more recent information, or if you write phrases AI doesn't know.

For example:

Question: What is the world record for crossing the English Channel *entirely on foot*?

Chatbot: As of my last knowledge update in September 2021, the world record for crossing the English Channel *entirely on foot* was held by Sarah Thomas, an American open-water swimmer.

You can't cross the English Channel *entirely on foot* - it's a body of water.



NHD Contest Rules That Relate to AI

Rule 4: Student Research

"You must complete the research, design, and creation of your project on your own..." ([NHD Rule Book](#) pg. 14)

Rule 10: Reasonable Help

"You are responsible for the research, design, and creation of your entry. Objects created by others specifically for use in your entry violate this rule" ([NHD Rule Book](#) pg. 17).

Additionally, review the rules for your category as they address original work.

When registering for an NHD contest, you agree that your project is original.

If you use AI, you need to cite it properly.

- Explain how you used AI tool(s) in your process paper.
- Add a citation to your annotated bibliography. Include the tool(s) and date(s). In the annotation, explain how you used it. Both MLA and *The Chicago Manual of Style* include annotations for AI tools.
- AI tools are secondary sources.



GUIDANCE FOR JUDGES

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and National History Day® (NHD) Judging

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is part of our world. As delineated here, NHD students may use AI in ways that they might also consult with people, such as brainstorming keywords to research their topics. Students may **not** use AI in ways that violate NHD Contest Rules, particularly by letting AI write text or generate images, videos, or graphics for them.

The challenge for the judging process lies in discerning whether elements of a project are student-created or AI-generated. While AI detection tools continually evolve, **there are no tools that are 100% effective at identifying whether content is created by AI or a human.** Unlike plagiarism, where judges could find a source that a student copied without citation, there is **no way to be completely sure that a student used AI inappropriately.**

The best approach is to ask questions during the interview, as you would for other aspects of a project. Interviews are your opportunity to **ask open-ended questions** to clarify your understanding.



Examples of Interview Questions

- ✓ How did you create your project?
- ✓ How did you conduct your research?
- ✓ How did you put your written materials together?



Please believe what students say during the interview.

If they volunteer the use of AI in a way that violates NHD contest rules, **please address this on the written evaluation form with constructively-worded criticism** that offers guidance and mentoring, and avoids punitive language.

A statement like "Did you copy from AI?" will come across as an accusation without evidence. Instead, write something like, **"I was not always sure which parts of your project were your own words or the words of others. ..."**