RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ETHICAL USE OF AI

Competitor agreements should clearly communicate the use of AI tools that ensure everyone has equal access to such tools, knowledge of their benefits and limitations, understands the appropriate use and is clear on policies and procedures for their use.

Integrity is a core value at SkillsUSA, and all student members must uphold this principle--whether using AI-based tools or otherwise. For competitions, responsible use of AI-based tools in completing tasks or assessments must be done in accordance with the following:

1. You must clearly identify the use of AI-based tools in your work. Any work that utilizes AI-based tools must be clearly marked and cited as such, including the specific tool(s) used.

2. You must be transparent in how you used the AI-based tool, including what work is your original contribution. An AI detector may be used to detect AI-driven work.

3. You must ensure your use of AI-based tools does not violate any copyright or intellectual property laws.

4. You must not use AI-based tools to cheat on assessments.

5. You must not use AI-based tools to plagiarize without citation.

POLICY | ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE USE OF AI

Learning to use AI is an emerging skill, and competitors should be aware of the limits of AI tools. You may use AI programs, e.g. ChatGPT, to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. You will be responsible for any errors or omissions provided by the tool. Beware that use may also stifle your independent thinking and creativity. You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material.

It works best for topics you understand. AI is a tool, but one that you need to acknowledge using. Please include a paragraph at the end of any assignment that uses AI explaining what you used the AI for and what prompts you used to get the results. Failure to do so violates the integrity policy. Be thoughtful about when this tool is useful. They don't always make products easier or better. Don't use it if it isn't appropriate for the case or circumstance.

SUMMARY

We recommend that competition technical chairs and state directors have conversations about the ethical use of AI tools. Consistency and clear communication are essential to developing a state association policy. Additionally determining appropriate penalties for unauthorized use of an AI will be crucial to conducting fair competition. It is important to think about the appropriate level of penalty for violations of your policies on the use of AI.

We encourage the technical committee and judges to consider how the use of AI tools increases the efficiency of work. In evaluating competitor work, you should change evaluation from what tool is used to how the tool(s) are used and the percentage of AI-generated content versus unique application of content used.

Research for assessment in the age of AI reveals that preference can be made for the use of oral assessment and proctored examination. For example, competition judges could closely proctor tasks where AI tools are not permitted to ensure original content creation. Additionally, conducting interviews with competitors to evaluate original thought and higher-order understanding for work that allows the use of AI tools.

Some common examples of acceptable use of generative AI tools are:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas

- Fine-tuning your research questions

- Finding information on your topic

- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and

- Checking grammar and style.