



Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

2025 Individual Project Abstract Form

Please print 2 copies of the completed form. Sign both copies, keep 1 for your notebook and submit 1 copy to your Regional Fair Director with your other paperwork.

Title of Project: Who Wrote It? How Genre Affects Students' Ability to Detect AI.

Finalist's Name: Helen Ostrowski

School and City: Monument Academy, Colorado Springs

Sponsor's Name: Karl Brown

Category: Behavioral & Social Sciences

Division: Junior (grades 6 - 8)

Abstract (250 words or less):

The purpose of this experiment was to determine how the genre of a text (poetry, journalism, informational essay, fictional story) impacts eighth graders' ability to determine whether a text was written by AI or a human. To conduct the experiment, thirteen eighth graders, of the same reading level, took five different tests, each with a genre assigned to it. The tests asked them to read a clip of text, write if it was written by AI or a human, and then respond with why they chose their answer. The tests were graded, and responses as to why subjects chose their answers were also analyzed. The results revealed that eighth graders do well in determining whether text was written by AI or a human in the informational essay and fictional story genres, but struggle to find the source of poetry and journalism genre texts. Surprisingly, the participants were most accurate on the neutral genre test, even though it was also the control group. One of the biggest insights from this experiment was that the subjects' accuracy was very low for all genres, even the neutral genre, the best only being 53.85% correct. Therefore, eighth graders should think hard before trusting that information came from a certain source if they are reading poetry or journalism, and feel more confident in assuming the source of an informational essay, fictional story, or neutral genre, so they don't accidentally believe inaccurate information as AI continues to grow in the future.

I hereby certify that the above statements are correct and the information provided in the Abstract is the result of one year's research. I also attest that the above properly reflects my own work.

Finalist's Signature:

Date:

In addition, all students must complete the ISEF Student Checklist (1A), Research Plan, Approval Form (1B), and Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), and any other ISEF forms required for this type of project. See the International Rules and Guidelines for form requirements. Return COPIES of all of these forms to your Regional Fair Director with you Finalist Verification/Permission Form. **A signed copy of this form must be included in your notebook.**