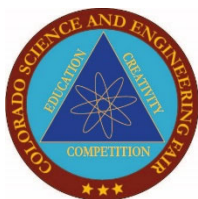


Use of Generative AI in Research Projects Policy



The purpose of this policy is to give guidance to students, teachers and mentors working on STEM research projects on acceptable uses of generative AI in the development and execution of those projects and how to properly cite this usage. The table below was adapted from the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair guidance ([Generative-AI-Use-Table.pdf](#)). Regional science fairs may adopt their own more strict policies.

Task	Acceptable Use?	Conditions
Asking generative AI to identify or summarize key points in an article before reading it. Using this as a starting point for the literature review.	YES	This is acceptable without the need for explicit citations.
Using an AI chatbot as a writing tool to help generate and develop ideas.	YES	This is acceptable but may require explicit citations depending on the circumstances. Maintain a logbook of the prompts used as part of the research notebook.
Writing an abstract and then ask AI to sharpen the language, but not to modify, add to, or replace the main points.	YES	This is acceptable without the need for explicit citation, ONLY if the changes suggested by AI are limited to grammar and syntax.
Using AI to write the initial code for the project.	YES	This is acceptable ONLY with explicit citations stating which portions of the code were AI generated and with a log of the prompts.
Asking generative AI to produce a flowchart, graphic or image for a paper or presentation.	YES	This is acceptable and the image should be clearly marked as AI generated with an explicit citation as to how the image was created.

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Using AI to help identify appropriate statistical tests or software tools. The interpretation of the data must be done by the student(s).	YES	This is acceptable and requires a log of the prompts as part of your research notebook.
Asking generative AI to fix the structure or formatting of your bibliography.	YES	This is acceptable without the need for explicit citations, but the student(s) must review and verify all citations are valid.
Asking AI to summarize a book or article in your field and then reproduce that summary in the literature review without reading the book or article.	NO	This is never acceptable as there has been no engagement with the book or source itself.
Using generative AI to initially write the research plan, abstract, paper or poster content.	NO	This is never acceptable. This must be independent work of the student(s). Guidance or refinement after the initial document has been completed using AI can be done with an explicit citation and prompt log.
Asking for generative AI to write an abstract or section of the research paper and then submit it as the student(s) own work.	NO	This is never acceptable under any circumstance.
Writing the research paper and asking AI to add additional points to it.	NO	This is never acceptable under any circumstances.
Using AI to produce the conclusions, future steps, etc.	NO	This is never acceptable under any circumstances.
Using AI to collect data and write the research plan. Then using AI to provide citations that back up the claims.	NO	This is never acceptable under any circumstances.
Asking for generative AI to produce a starter bibliography.	NO	This is never acceptable under any circumstances.

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