Washington Tracking Network Youth Science Contest Guidelines for AI Usage

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools offer new ways to interact with information and to learn. But like all tools, there are appropriate and inappropriate times and ways to use them. We encourage AI uses that support, rather than replace, the learning process and critical thinking.

## Ethical, equitable, and safe use of AI

- AI tools use large quantities of data to develop the models that power the tools. In many cases, by using the tool, you are agreeing to the tool keeping and using the data you enter. Therefore, you should never enter any personal information about yourself or others.
  - WTN data is published publicly and does not contain any personally identifiable information, so can be used in AI tools.
- AI-generated content is based on datasets or data models that may contain biases, false information, or other inaccuracies. AI systems do not have the ability to think or verify accuracy. Therefore, you need to verify AI results before including them in your work.
- AI systems can, and sometimes do, amplify human bias. Make sure to review any AI results so that you do not perpetuate these biases in your work.

Allowable uses of AI in the WTN Youth Science Contest

- Brainstorming, topic generation, idea generation.
- Finding additional resources you could use for your project.
- Looking for areas of significance or equity impacts of your project beyond what you might have initially identified.
- Enhancing your writing with AI suggestions that improve your organization, transitions, word accuracy and word choice, and/or title generation.
- Checking your written content for writing conventions – grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling.
- Creating study supports, such as a timeline or organizational plan to meet the contest deadline.

Disallowed uses of AI in the WTN Youth Science Contest

- Creating your analysis or conclusions. This includes data visualizations.
- Drafting your project.
- Generating images or messages.
- Using AI responses directly as a source of information; all information in your projects should come from your original work or a reference document. (AI responses are allowed to lead you to reference documents.)
- If you are participating in the contest as a class assignment, using AI in any way that goes against your school or class policies.

Level 1 No AI Assistance	Level 2 AI–Assisted Brainstorming	Level 3 AI-Supported Drafting	Level 4 AI-Collaborative Creation	Level 5 AI as Co-Creator
No AI tools are used at any point. Students rely solely on their knowledge and skills.	AI tools can help generate ideas. Final content must be created by the student without direct AI input. AI assistance must be cited.	AI can help with drafting initial versions. The final version must be significantly revised by the student. Clear distinction between AI input and student's contributions.	AI-generated content can be included. Student must critically evaluate and edit AI contributions. AI usage must be transparent and cited.	Extensive use of AI in content creation. Student provides a rationale for AI use and ensures original thought. Work adheres to academic integrity with proper citations.

AI use acknowledgement and reflection

Any use you make of AI should be acknowledged. This is part of academic honesty and can also lead to deeper learning.

Furthermore, we at the Department of Health will benefit from knowing how you used AI. By telling us about how you used it, we may learn new ways AI could be used in our work. In this way, sharing your AI usage can contribute to the advancement of public health work in Washington.

You must submit a reflection paper on your use of AI. If you use AI, this reflection paper should include:

- How you used AI in your project.
- What challenges you faced in using AI in your project.
- What benefits you got from using AI in your project.

If you do not use AI in your project, you need to submit an AI reflection paper stating that you did not use AI.

This guidance was developed using "Human-Centered AI Guidance for K–12 Public Schools" from the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.