

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. ...**"