

West Virginia Young Writers Contest: AI Use Guidance for Schools and Districts

Please use the following guidance to ensure fair, ethical, and developmentally appropriate use of generative AI tools in student submissions, aligned with the West Virginia Department of Education's AI Guidance v1.2.

General Principles

1. Submissions must reflect the **original creative thinking** of the student. Generative AI may **not** be used to write, rewrite, or substantially edit the student's work.
2. Students must disclose any use of AI tools in their writing process (e.g., brainstorming, grammar checking). Undisclosed use of AI-generated content is considered a violation of contest integrity.
3. Age-Appropriate Expectations *As noted in the WVDE AI Guidance Document v1.2, Special Consideration: Student Age:*

Students should ideally be at least 13 years old to utilize AI technology. For students under the age of 13, special attention is needed due to stricter laws like the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). Additionally, the use of AI should be closely monitored by educators to ensure that the content and interaction are age-appropriate, respectful of privacy, and aligned with educational goals.

Permitted Uses of AI (Grades 6–12 Only)

If it is permissible within school and classroom policy, students may use AI tools for the following purposes, with proper disclosure:

- Idea generation or brainstorming (e.g., asking for writing prompts)
- Grammar or spelling suggestions
- Vocabulary enhancement (e.g., synonyms or definitions)

Students must include a brief AI Use Statement with their submission, such as:
"I used Grammarly to check spelling and ChatGPT to brainstorm ideas for my story."

Prohibited Uses of AI (All Grades)

Students **may not use AI tools to:**

- Generate full or partial drafts of their submission
- Rewrite or paraphrase their own writing using AI
- Use AI to mimic a writing style or voice
- Submit any content that was created by AI as their own

For contest details, visit the official website:

<https://www.marshall.edu/cvwwp/everything-young-writers/>