

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Business Plan Competition

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools can be valuable resources for entrepreneurs when used responsibly. The Business Plan Competition permits the use of AI to support ideation, analysis, and communication, provided that teams remain fully accountable for the quality, accuracy, and originality of their work.

Purpose

AI may be used to:

- Brainstorm and refine venture ideas or solutions.
- Improve clarity, organization, and grammar in written materials.
- Support data analysis and market research **with human oversight**.
- Strengthen critical thinking by evaluating and improving AI-generated suggestions.

Acceptable Use

Teams may use AI tools for:

- Idea generation and early drafting of business plans or presentations.
- Language support such as grammar checks, paraphrasing, and proofreading.
- Data analysis or modeling **when results are verified and interpreted by the team**.

AI should be used as a support tool—not as a substitute for original thinking, judgment, or entrepreneurial effort.

Unacceptable Use

The following uses of AI are not permitted:

- Generating entire submissions or entire sections of your submission (e.g., business plans, pitch decks) without substantial team contribution.
- Submitting AI-generated content as original work without disclosure.
- Relying on AI output without verifying accuracy, feasibility, or assumptions.
- Using AI in ways that misrepresent the team's understanding, capabilities, or role in developing the venture.



Transparency and Disclosure

Transparency is required. Any team that uses AI must include a brief **AI Use Statement** in their written submission (e.g., executive summary, business plan) describing:

- Which AI tools were used, and
- How the team verified accuracy and contributed original analysis and decision-making.

Examples:

- "ChatGPT was used to support early brainstorming and outline development; all analysis, research, and conclusions were completed by the team."
- "Grammarly was used for proofreading and grammar suggestions."

Accountability

Teams remain fully responsible for:

- The accuracy of all claims and data.
- The originality of ideas and analysis.
- Being able to explain and defend their work during judging.

Failure to disclose AI use or misuse of AI may result in penalties, including disqualification.

Additional Notes

- The Business Plan Competition does not use AI detection tools due to known reliability and bias concerns.
- This policy may be updated as AI tools evolve.

