

Copyright, Original Work, and Generative AI Policy

All Texas TSA State Contest entries must represent the original work of the participating competitor(s) or team. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that all work submitted or presented complies with copyright law, citation requirements, the TSA Honor Statement, and the requirements of the applicable Competitive Event.

1. Original Work and Plagiarism

- All work must be created and completed by the individual competitor(s) or team.
- Plagiarism, copyright infringement, cheating, falsification of information, and attempts to gain an unfair competitive advantage are prohibited.
- Ideas, texts, images, graphics, music, video, data, code, or other material obtained from another source must be appropriately cited.
- Materials labeled "free," "for reuse," or similar must still be cited and may require permission for use.
- Plagiarized content may result in **immediate disqualification**.

2. Citations and Copyrighted Material

- Citations and references must follow a recognized professional citation style selected by the competitor. Examples include **MLA, APA, Chicago, and IEEE**.
- Failure to use the required or an appropriate professional citation style may result in a **20% rules violation**, consistent with applicable TSA rules.
- When copyrighted material is used, competitors must obtain and retain written permission when required. Competitors are responsible for determining whether permission is required and should familiarize themselves with applicable copyright and fair-use requirements.
- Use of the TSA name, logos, and other protected branding must comply with the applicable **TSA Branding Guide**.

3. Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Texas TSA recognizes that Generative Artificial Intelligence can be an educational tool when used ethically and appropriately. **GenAI may only be used when permitted by the specific Competitive Event.**

When permitted, GenAI may be used as a support tool to:

- Explore possible topics or approaches;
- Begin or assist with locating potential sources;
- Clarify understanding of complex information;
- Brainstorm or organize ideas; and

- Review student-created work for grammar, clarity, or tone.

GenAI **must not replace the student's own learning, analysis, decision-making, creativity, or synthesis of information**. Students must independently evaluate sources, conduct appropriate research, analyze and synthesize evidence, and make the final decisions regarding the content and presentation of their work.

Students are responsible for verifying the accuracy of information generated by AI and for ensuring that AI-generated material does not introduce plagiarism, copyright violations, fabricated information, or other rule violations.

4. GenAI Attribution and Documentation

When GenAI is permitted by an event:

- Its use must be clearly and accurately disclosed as required by the Competitive Event.
- Students must complete the **Resources and AI Reflection Form** when required. The form documents the AI tools used and their role in the research and solution process and must be submitted according to the applicable event instructions.
- AI-generated content must not be presented as entirely student-created when the event requires disclosure of AI assistance.
- Competitors remain responsible for all content included in their entry, regardless of whether that content was created by the student or generated with AI assistance.

5. Events Where GenAI Is Not Permitted

There are events where the rules specifically state that GenAI may **not** be used. For these events, competitors must complete the work without the use of Generative AI tools.

6. Enforcement and Penalties

Competitors at all levels of Texas TSA competition are expected to comply with the **TSA Honor Statement**. A determination that a competitor has violated the Honor Statement, copyright requirements, or applicable AI requirements may result in a **20% rules violation**, disqualification, or other penalty as specified by the applicable Competitive Events Guide.

Plagiarism, significant copyright violations, unauthorized use of AI, or other serious violations may result in **disqualification of the affected entry and/or all State Contest entries associated with the student(s)**.

Serious or widespread violations from a chapter may result in **additional consequences for the chapter**, including forfeit of all awards and potential probation from the Texas TSA State Competition.

7. Competitor Responsibility

Students and advisors are responsible for understanding and following the rules applicable to each Competitive Event. When there is uncertainty regarding copyright, appropriate attribution, AI use, or whether material may be included in an entry, competitors should resolve the issue **before submitting their entry**.

Participation in Texas TSA competition constitutes agreement to follow these requirements and the TSA Honor Statement.