



Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence for NEH Grant Proposals

Introduction

An increasing number of people rely upon generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to help them write. As a consequence, questions have arisen about the use of generative AI – typically in the form of AI chat systems – in the writing and reviewing of grant proposals. This policy addresses those two subjects.

Policy on the Use of AI in Writing of NEH Grant Proposals

The content of any NEH grant proposal has always been, and will always be, the responsibility of the applicant. All applicants must ensure that their proposals are fact-based and that they have properly acknowledged and referenced all sources.

An applicant's reliance upon AI does not change this fundamental requirement. In other words, having an AI system suggest language, spell-check, or provide other forms of writing assistance does not relieve NEH grant applicants of their duty to ensure that their proposals are factually accurate, clearly written, and appropriately sourced.

NEH will permit applicants to use AI technology to prepare their applications; however, NEH will require all applicants to specifically acknowledge (by use of footnotes or other marginal notations) when they have inserted AI-generated text into their proposals. This will enable NEH to track how often and in what respects NEH applicants have relied upon AI as a grant writing tool.

NEH reserves the right to declare an application ineligible in the event it fails to comply with this requirement and will provide notice to applicants of this policy by linking to it in future Notices of Funding Opportunities.

Policy on the Use of AI in Reviewing NEH Grant Proposals

Because applications to NEH routinely contain confidential information and proprietary information, NEH's peer review process is and must remain strictly confidential.

Accordingly, NEH prohibits peer reviewers from uploading NEH applications into a cloud database, which being owned and operated by third parties outside of the peer review process cannot guarantee the content's confidentiality.

All future NEH peer reviewers will be provided with this policy as part of their orientation.

Acknowledgement

NEH acknowledges the Canadian research funding agencies' [ad hoc panel on the use of generative AI for research proposals](#) and the National Science Foundation's "[Notice to research community: Use of generative artificial intelligence technology in the NSF merit review process](#)" in the writing of this policy.