

AI Usage Policy - Florida Student News Watch

Reviewed January, 2024

Overview: At the Florida Student News Watch (FSNW), we recognize the evolving landscape of journalism and the potential benefits that Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools bring to student reporters. While we value innovation, we also emphasize the importance of maintaining the integrity of journalistic work and upholding ethical standards. This policy provides guidelines for the responsible use of AI tools by FSNW student journalists and contributors.

Policy:

1. Student/Contributor Authority:

- Students and contributors are expected to maintain authority over their journalistic work. Any content produced with a byline or with attribution should be generated uniquely by the student or contributor without factual or creative input from AI tools.

2. Unique Authorship:

- Articles, reports, and any other content bearing a student's byline or contributor's attribution must reflect the student's or contributor's individual contribution, creativity, and originality. AI tools should serve as aids rather than replacements for student or contributor effort and creativity.

3. Ethical Use of AI:

- The FSNW acknowledges the usefulness of AI in journalism and respects students' and contributors' ethical abilities to manage its use responsibly. Students and contributors are expected to approach AI tools with a level of skepticism equal to that applied to any information gathered during their reporting. The use of AI should (if used) complement, not replace, the critical thinking and editorial judgment essential to ethical journalism.

4. Editorial Oversight:

- The FSNW retains the right to review and assess the use of AI tools in journalistic work. Editors and advisors may provide guidance on ethical AI use and intervene if concerns arise regarding the potential compromise of reporting integrity.

5. Continuous Learning:

- Students are encouraged to stay informed about the latest developments in AI technology and its applications in journalism. Training and resources related to responsible AI use may be provided to enhance students' understanding and skills.

6. Flexibility and Innovation:

- The FSNW does not altogether bar the use of AI tools. Students are encouraged to explore innovative ways to incorporate AI responsibly into their reporting, with the understanding that ethical considerations and journalistic standards take precedence.

This policy is subject to periodic review and updates to align with the evolving landscape of AI technology and journalistic best practices.