

NCFL Statement on the Use of ChatGPT and Similar AI Tools

NCFL will not restrict the use of ChatGPT, Bard, or other similar AI-based research tools in Extemp Prep, Student Congress, or Debate events. These can be legitimate research tools. However, given that some of these systems lack current data and often do not cite exact sources or evidence, using them directly for speech and argument preparation will be challenging.

These tools are currently being used in schools and workplaces and usage will only increase as new versions and options are released. We need to teach students to use them, as first drafts or idea generators, and how to get to a finished product on their own after using them for a first draft.

While we encourage all coaches, judges, and students to carefully review the NCFL Bylaws prior to the National Competition, we do want to specifically remind coaches and students of some pertinent NCFL rules, set forth in the Bylaws, to keep in mind when working with these tools:

- In Extemporaneous Speaking, rule #1 states, "The speech should be an original synthesis by the contestant," and continues, "The speaker is responsible for the ethical use of source information."
- In Original Oratory, rule #3 states, "The speech must be one that has been composed by the student delivering it."
- Students using these tools should cite them as a source and judges will be allowed to consider if a student's sources are well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient when determining ranks.

As a general reminder, we have no control over whether our host facilities will have blocked access to these tools (and other websites) on their network routers. If your preparation depends on access to these tools, you should plan on using a private hotspot to access the internet.