

Guidelines for Responsible and Productive Use of AI in Project Development

The Verizon Smart Campus Competition encourages creativity, innovation, and ethical use of technology. Teams are welcome to explore AI tools as part of their work, but it's important that their use reflects responsible, transparent, and academically sound practices. The following principles can help guide thoughtful engagement with AI throughout your project:

Use AI as a partner in learning, not a substitute

AI can help you brainstorm, analyze, and test ideas – but it should complement your understanding, not replace it. Use AI to explore possibilities, strengthen your research, and enhance your creativity while ensuring your team remains the primary driver of insight and innovation.

Maintain integrity and originality

Your project should reflect your team's creativity and problem-solving abilities. AI tools can assist with ideation, drafting, or analysis, but they should not replace your independent work. If AI significantly contributes to your project, be prepared to discuss how it was used and how your team ensured originality.

Critically evaluate AI-generated content

AI outputs may contain inaccuracies, bias, or unverified claims. Always fact-check, edit, and assess whether generated content aligns with your team's goals and ethical standards. Teams are ultimately responsible for the quality and accuracy of all content submitted.

Be transparent and reflective

If your team used AI during the project, consider noting where and how it supported your work (e.g., idea generation, research organization, or prototyping). Transparency helps model responsible innovation and builds credibility for your team's approach.

Use secure and reputable tools

Only use AI platforms that include clear data privacy protections and transparency about how your information is stored or used. When available, use institutionally approved or enterprise-grade tools designed for professional or educational use.

Respect data privacy and confidentiality

Do not input confidential, personal, or proprietary data into AI systems. Treat AI platforms as public spaces unless explicitly stated otherwise. Be mindful of intellectual property and copyright considerations when incorporating AI-generated material into your work.

