



## **New Hampshire Bar Foundation High School Civics Essay Contest**

### **2026 Essay Prompt**

Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) companies create services such as ChatGPT by scanning books and articles, which often contain intellectual property that results from years of hard work, study, and expertise. These companies then generate profits by either selling their services or providing them for free and profiting from the data obtained from users.

As our country nears its 250th birthday, how should the freedoms and rights identified in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution shape the way Artificial Intelligence tools like ChatGPT are regulated? Should AI companies be required by law to pay the authors whose work they use? In answering this question, consider the balance of this country’s constitutional commitments to free speech, privacy, and property rights (including intellectual property). Identify and weigh the positive and negative effects of AI. Cite two or three court cases that have informed your thinking.

### **Essay Requirements**

- Write a well-structured essay of **750–1,000 words**, with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Ensure your essay is your own original work that reflects your thoughts and analysis.
- Take a clear position on whether AI companies should be required to compensate authors whose works they use.
- Cite two or three court cases that have informed your thinking.

### **Judging Criteria**

Essays will be judged on a **100-point scale**, using the following criteria:

- Understanding of constitutional principles – **60 points**
- Originality, clarity, and depth of analysis – **30 points**
- Grammar, spelling, composition, and citations – **10 points**