

Artificial Intelligence Ethical Guidelines and Policies for The Mustang Morning News

Revised December 2023

The Mustang Morning News staff uses artificial intelligence tools to accelerate the process of journalism, and provide their audience with accurate, timely, newsworthy information in much the same way as calculators or supercomputers aid scientists, engineers, and medical researchers. It is not used as a substitute for critical thinking, sound research, or human evaluation/judgment.

Any journalistic story that uses Artificial Intelligence will meet the same high standards as any other story. All journalistic content remains the responsibility of the staff, overseen by the Adviser, and adheres to existing journalistic ethics policies, including accuracy, plagiarism, objectivity, and copyright law.

AI tools continue to evolve and change rapidly. Currently, AI tools may be used to:

- Accelerate the rate and volume of journalistic content
- Assist in professional writing standards (tutor), and ensure standards such as grammar, spelling, structure, style, etc.
- Assist in the analysis of documents and professional content
- Generate graphics or images that support sound journalistic endeavors, such as data visualizations, backgrounds, marketing/promotion materials, etc.
- Generate royalty-free music for use where appropriate
- Other activities or content deemed necessary by the editorial board student leadership team

Other guidelines:

- The staff and editorial board are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of AI generated content
- Staff will be trained in an ongoing basis on the ethical use of AI tools for reporting
- This policy will be reviewed/revised on a regular basis to keep pace with evolving technology, law, and use cases.

Consequences for Violation of this policy

- Consequences will be in alignment with pre-existing guidelines for unethical behavior
- Prompt a review of the AI ethics policy