

2025-26 STOSSEL IN THE CLASSROOM AI CHALLENGE OFFICIAL RULES

All entries should specifically address one of the three listed topics.

Eligibility – The contest is open to students in grades 9-12 at some point during the contest period September 10, 2025 – January 9, 2026. No more than one entry will be accepted for each student. Students may enter both the AI and video contests, but may NOT enter the SITC essay contest. Entrants must be located in the United States, Canada, or a U.S. military address, and all submissions must be in English. Employees of Stossel in the Classroom, Stossel TV, and Center for Independent Thought, or any person or organization involved in the operation and/or setup of the contest, and their immediate family members are not eligible for this contest.

Previous winners of a Stossel in the Classroom first place prize are not eligible for prizes in our subsequent contests, unless they're competing in a different division (middle school/high school/college) or contest type (essay/video/AI).

Entry – An entry consists of a link to the student's chat with an approved AI (ChatGPT, Gemini, or Poe) as well as a 500-750 word reflection. Submissions that do not meet this requirement will be disqualified. Submissions that do not include a working link to the approved-AI chat will be disqualified.

Deadline – Entries must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Time, January 9, 2026.

Plagiarism – All reflections must be the original work of the student whose name is listed on the submission form. Plagiarism or AI-generated content in the Reflection portion of the entry will result in immediate disqualification.

Taxes – Winners will be solely responsible for any federal, state, or local taxes on winnings.

Judging – Reflections & AI chats will be judged on their ability to respond to the entry instructions in an articulate, clear, and organized manner. Stossel in the Classroom will evaluate submissions in a fair and unbiased judging system in which the judges all use the same criteria. Judges will be selected by Stossel in the Classroom based on their backgrounds and expertise in education, writing, and the subject matter. Decisions of the judges are final.

Ownership and Use – The ownership of any submission remains the property of the writer, but entry into the competition constitutes the entrant's permission and consent, without compensation, with or without attribution, for Stossel in the Classroom, Stossel TV, and Center for Independent Thought to use, reproduce, transmit, post, distribute, adapt, edit, and/or display the submission.