

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance for *Live Your Dream Awards Applications*

APPLICANTS

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Your Application

We know that many applicants may choose to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) when compiling their application materials. If you do choose to use these tools, we encourage you to use them to enhance, rather than replace, your own writing and thoughts. We want to see applications that reflect your individual journey, rather than optimized writing by AI that is copied and pasted.

AI-generated essays lack the personal voice and genuine emotion that reviewers look for. The written sections are meant to reflect the applicant's unique experiences and goals.

Sorooptimist does not use AI in reviewing applications – humans will read and personally evaluate each application submitted.

If it is evident that AI was used to write the written section, the reviewers may question whether it truly represents the applicant's true thoughts, which will impact how your application is evaluated.

Applications that appear to be AI-generated will likely be sent back to you for verification or might not be considered.

Our reviewers want to hear your voice: your experiences, your goals, and your vision for your future in your own words. With that in mind, please follow these guidelines when using AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Grammarly, and similar tools) in preparing your application:

AI tools may be used to:

- Proofread: check grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Improve the clarity or flow of sentences you have already written
- Organize your thoughts before drafting or suggest ways to better organize your thoughts
- Translate, clarify the questions, and help express ideas if English is not your first language
- Help calculate your income and expenses in the finance section
- Provide feedback and ensure the writing prompt was followed

AI tools may NOT be used to:

- Write your responses from scratch
- Generate stories, experiences, or goals that are not your own
- Replace your personal reflection and voice with generic language

Why does this matter?

Your lived experiences and personal perspective are what make your application meaningful and competitive. Applications that feel impersonal or templated are less compelling to reviewers. Authenticity is one of the most important qualities we look for. Remember, you're not being evaluated for the quality of your writing. A response that reflects your genuine story – even with simple language and minor grammatical errors – allows the reviewer/judge to get to know you better and will be scored higher than a written response that is overly polished but vague and impersonal. Applications that feel personal, rather than generic, are more likely to be considered for an award.

A good rule of thumb:

If you read your final application and it no longer sounds like you, revise it until it does.

Remember, AI is technology – not human. You don't want your written section to sound like a robot wrote it. Make sure it's authentic and has your personal touches. That is what will make your application stand out.

Tools like ChatGPT or Grammarly may be used to check grammar and improve the clarity of your writing, but all responses must reflect your own thoughts, experiences, and goals.

Your authentic voice is what matters most to our reviewers.

Please remember that when you sign your application, you agree to the following:

"I certify that AI tools may have supported my writing, but my experiences, goals, and voice are entirely my own."

Questions? Contact the SIA Program Team at lydawards@soroptimist.org.