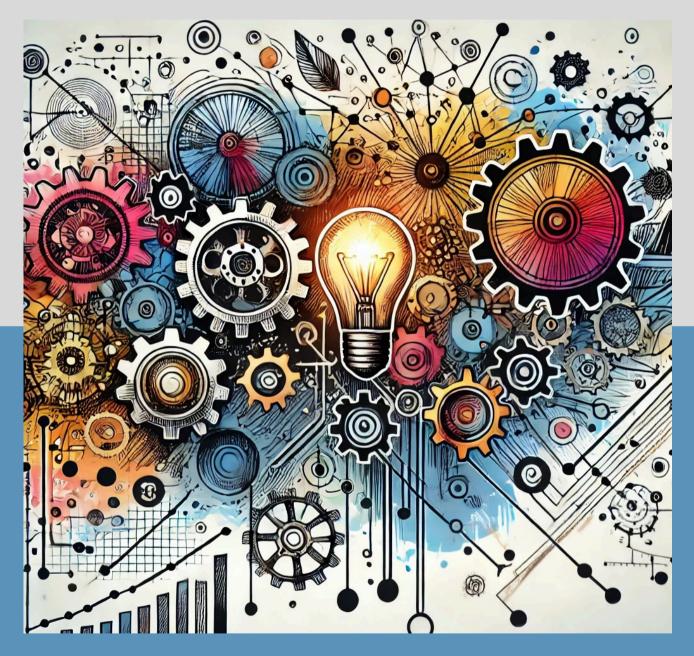# US NATIONAL INNOVATOR CHALLENGE

STUDENT HANDBOOK

A How-To Guide

HEWITT *Learning*

Getting Started

The US National Innovator Challenge (NIC) is a place for innovators to share, compete, and be celebrated for their brilliant solutions.

MISSION STATEMENT:
To inspire and cultivate a new generation of innovators who will lead the way to a better future for all.

HOW WE DEFINE INNOVATION

The Oxford Dictionary defines "innovation" as the introduction of new things, ideas, or ways of doing something. At the NIC, we broaden this definition to include improved methods, systems, or products. This encompasses enhancements, changes, or additions to current innovations that significantly improve upon them or perform the same function in a unique way.

EXAMPLES OF INNOVATION:

Some examples of innovations: prototype, app, idea, social good program, service, process, …or yours could be different from these and we encourage you to apply!

- Writing Instruments:
  - Early Innovations: Styluses in ancient times.
  - Modern Developments: Ballpoint pens, gel pens, felt-tip markers.
- Timekeeping Devices:
  - Early Innovations: Sundials and water clocks.
  - Modern Technology: Smartwatches with digital functionalities.
- Computers:
  - Early Machines: The abacus and Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine.
  - Modern High-Speed Processors: Evolution from Personal Computers to Advanced Computing Technologies.
- Medical Technology:
  - Ancient Practices: Herbal medicines.
  - Modern Advances: MRI machines, telemedicine.

In addition, you can also combine existing products to create unique innovations, such as a Spork (Fork + Spoon) or a Community Fridge (A social good program).

U.S. NATIONAL INNOVATOR CHALLENGE

ELIGIBILITY Requirements

To ensure a fair and inclusive competition, the NIC sets forth the following eligibility criteria:

- **Age Range:** Open to students aged 5-19 residing in the U.S.
- **Educational Status:** Participants must not have graduated from high school.
  - Exceptions include
    - High school students concurrently taking college courses
    - Students who entered the qualifying round challenge while in high school
- **Originality:** Submissions must be student-designed. Advisor involvement is permitted but should be limited to guidance.
- **Participation Limit:** Individuals may only register one innovation per challenge.
- **Entry Path:** Any student in the United States of America is eligible to enter the NIC.
- **Team Limits:** Must register as an individual or team (up to three students)

Note: If your situation does not fit these criteria, please contact us at nic@hewittlearning.org for guidance.

TEAM REQUIREMENTS

The NIC values teamwork and collaboration. Individuals or teams are eligible to participate in the NIC. Here are the guidelines for team participation:

- **Team Composition:** Teams of up to three students are eligible. Larger teams may collaborate, but only three representatives may officially register for the challenge.
- **Recognition:** All team members, regardless of the number, will be recognized for their contributions and eligible for opportunity prizes.
- **Residency:** At least one team member must be a U.S. resident.
- **Age Criteria:** All members must meet the age eligibility requirement. Teams will be evaluated in the age category of their oldest member.
- **Role Definition:** During registration, each team member's role in the project must be clearly defined.

Encouragement: We encourage teams to embrace diversity in skills, perspectives, and disciplines to enrich their innovation journey.
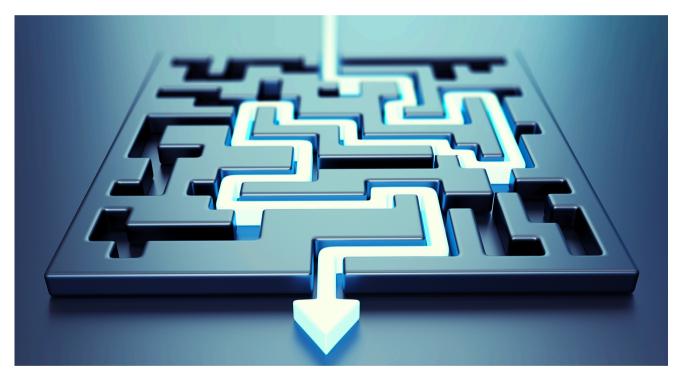
U.S. NATIONAL
INNOVATOR
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How to Qualify

At the NIC, we encourage students to harness their creativity and problem-solving skills to develop innovative solutions. To qualify for the challenge, participants must:

- **Develop an Innovation:** Create a solution that addresses a real-world problem. Projects should introduce new things, ideas, or ways of doing something; including significantly improved methods, ideas, systems, or products. Your innovation should be tested and refined based on feedback.
  - Note: Innovators may (but do not have to) create a unique innovation for the NIC. They may show an innovation they created for another program, or an innovation they have shown before at NIC, providing there has been significant improvement to the innovation.
- **Prepare Submission Materials:** This includes a pitch video, photographs, and a detailed description of your innovation.
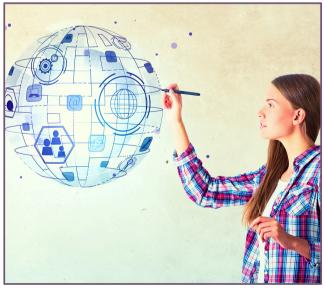

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- **Round #1 Advisory Panel Review:** Submissions will be evaluated using the categories described later in the handbook. Feedback will be provided to guide improvements.
- **Round #2 Live Event:** Top submissions will be invited to present at a live Zoom event where students will present their projects to other competitors and adult advisors. Standout innovators will earn awards, including an invitation to the US National Innovator Challenge (NIC).

U.S. NATIONAL INNOVATOR CHALLENGE

Submission Requirements

- **Pitch Video** - A 60 second video pitch or commercial that can be used to highlight your innovation on social media.
- **Logbook/Journal** - Documenting the journey of your innovation.
- **Registration Fee** - A $30 nonrefundable fee per team member.
- **Participant's information** - Including name, gender, grade, city, parent name(s), participant's role, and email for each member of the team.
- **Project information** - Including the name of your idea, app, or prototype, a corresponding description, the problem it solves, how your idea, app, or prototype works, a list of who helped.
- **Image for Judges** - An image of your innovation that enables judges to understand more about your innovation. The image should not contain information that would damage your Intellectual Property rights.
  - **Example images:**
    - Idea: a small portion of your blueprint, diagram, illustration, or outline of idea saved as a PDF
    - App: screenshot(s) of a portion of your code as well as screenshot(s) of your user interface
    - Prototype: picture(s) that show the critical pieces
    - Social good program or service: flow chart or high level business plan
    - Process: process diagram/chart
- **Image for Public Display** - An image of your innovation that does not contain proprietary information and which can be used in public places.
- **Visuals** - a slide deck not longer than 6 slides saved as PDF or .pptx, or an image of a tri-fold display board

Preparing your NIC Materials

All participants will submit the Round 1 Materials and Presentation through the online registration process and some participants will be selected to advance to Round 2 and will also have a live presentation with a panel of international judges and peer innovators.

This section offers requirements and tips for the materials you will upload and the presentation(s) you will deliver.

Materials/Presentations	Round 1	Round 2
Image of Individual or Team	Required	not needed for this round
Image of Innovation	Required	not needed for this round
60-Second Pitch Video	Required	not needed for this round
Logbook/Journal	Required	Logbook/Journal (Judges will review before live event)
6-Slide/Page Presentation	Required	Innovators advanced to Round 2 will present to a panel of judges. You have the option to use your 6-Slide/Page Presentation to support live performance presentation.

IMAGE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM

- Create a JPEG or PNG image of yourself or your team (max. file size: 512 MB).

IMAGE OF THE INNOVATION

Create a JPEG or PNG image of your innovation (max. file size: 512 MB). The purpose of the image is to enable judges to generally understand more about your innovation, but the image should NOT contain too much detailed information so that it damages your Intellectual Property rights. See Protecting Your Intellectual Property .

Example images:
- Idea: a small portion of your blueprint, diagram, illustration, or outline saved as a PDF
- App: screenshot(s) of a portion of your code as well as screenshot(s) of your user interface
- Prototype: picture(s) that does not show all of the critical pieces
- Social-good program or service: high level business plan
- Process: process diagram/chart

Preparing your NIC Materials

60 SECOND PITCH VIDEO

Video Requirements:

- The video may not exceed 60 seconds.
- You may create your video using whatever technology you have available.
- If using a cell phone, capture the video in portrait, not landscape.
- You may edit your pitch video.
- Make sure to include the innovation name and the name(s) of the innovator(s).
- Make sure the video shares the problem as well as the solution
- Save your video in one of these formats: mp4, mov, or avi (max. file size: 512 MB).

Top 10 list of tips on how to make a great 60-second pitch video:

- **Start with a Strong Hook:** Capture viewers' attention with a compelling opening statement or question that piques their interest.
- **Focus on the Problem:** Clearly articulate the problem or challenge your product or service addresses. Make sure the problem is relatable and significant to your target audience.
- **Introduce Your Solution:** Concisely explain how your product or service solves the problem. Highlight the unique features or benefits that set it apart from competitors.
- **Keep it Simple:** Avoid using technical jargon or complex language. Keep your message clear, concise, and easy to understand.
- **Show, Don't Just Tell:** Whenever possible, demonstrate your product or service. Use visuals, animations, or real-life examples to illustrate its effectiveness.
- **Highlight Key Benefits:** Emphasize the main benefits or outcomes that users can expect from using your product or service. Focus on how it improves their lives or solves their problems.
- **Include Social Proof:** Share testimonials, case studies, or success stories from satisfied customers or clients to build credibility and trust.
- **Call to Action (CTA):** End your pitch with a clear and compelling call to action. Encourage viewers to take the next step, whether it's signing up for a free trial, visiting your website, or contacting you for more information.
- **Practice, Practice, Practice:** Rehearse your pitch multiple times to ensure it flows smoothly and effectively within the 60-second time limit. Practice speaking confidently and naturally.
- **Edit:** out any unnecessary or repetitive information to keep the pitch focused and engaging.

The goal of the pitch video is NOT to explain everything about the innovation, but to get people interested in learning more about the innovation.

Preparing your NIC Materials

LOGBOOK/JOURNAL

Top tips to make sure your logbook/journal is complete:

- Does your logbook/journal clearly explain the design process (from identifying the problem through testing and refining the innovation)?
- Are the pages clear, detailed, & thorough?
- Have you identified anyone who helped?
- Have you identified any materials used and how you obtained those materials?
- Are both the research and analysis clearly shown?

6-SLIDE/PAGE PRESENTATION AND/OR YOUR LIVE VERBAL PRESENTATION

AN NIC PRESENTATION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

1. A 6-slide/page presentation is required and will be reviewed by our judges in Round 1 along with your logbook/journal and innovation image to determine which innovations will advance to Round 2.
   a. In order to allow each project the same amount of review time by our judges, GIC limits you to 6 total presentation slides/pages so you need to plan how to use them well so that they can help you make your best presentation AND cover as much information as possible. If you submit a presentation with more than 6 total slides, you will be asked to edit the presentation down to 6 slides.
   - You may use Keynote, Google Slides, WPS, Prezi or any other program to create your slides, but after they are done, you MUST convert them to PPTX or PDF format files. You will only be able to upload PPTX (PowerPoint) or PDF (Adobe) files when you register. (max. file size: 512 MB).
2. If you advance to Round 2, your live presentation of your innovation story with or without the use of your 6-slide presentation.

In the following sections we have given you some guiding principles on how you might want to structure your presentation, followed by example slides. These can be used for your 6-slide presentation and/or your verbal presentation. Using them should assist you in covering all of the details you wish to present.
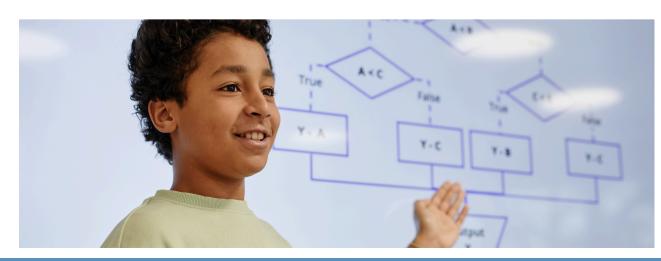
U.S. NATIONAL INNOVATOR CHALLENGE

Preparing your NIC Materials

TOP TIPS FOR YOUR 6-SLIDE PRESENTATION

Everyone has their own style and you should use yours. Below are some suggested tips to help you.

- You will have 3 minutes to present and then 5 minutes for Q&A from the judges. At the end of that 8 minute mark, your presentation will be over. Use your time wisely.
- Plan what each slide will show so that you cover all you want to say.
- Your presentation should have a strong opening, closing, and should keep your audience interested throughout.
- A mix of information and images will help keep your presentation interesting.
- Rather than long paragraphs of information, short summarized information or even bullet points detailing the most important information will be easier for your audience to follow and understand.
- In a notebook draw up a plan. For example: Divide your slides into two halves. On one side you might add an illustration, picture, or photo. On the other side you might add the high level details you want to share.
- For very young innovators, parents/teachers are welcome to help prompt as needed.
- For students with English language issues, an adult can assist them with translation. The adult will NOT give the presentation, but merely assist with translation from time to time, as appropriate.
- If you are presenting as a team:
- At the start of the presentation, the person speaking should provide their name and the name of all teammates representing the innovation.
- Where appropriate, teammates should help the student who is talking at the moment by demonstrating or using the solution.
- This presentation is your opportunity to explain what you have done, why you did it, how you did it, and what the result is. You will do great - remember you are the expert on your topic!
- Practice, Practice, PRACTICE! Practice really does make perfect.

U.S. NATIONAL INNOVATOR CHALLENGE

Preparing your NIC Materials

TOP TIPS FOR THE LIVE PRESENTATION

If you are chosen to advance to Round 2 of the Global Innovation Challenge, you will be asked to present your innovation in a live round to a panel of judges and peers. To prepare for this, you will need to create a verbal presentation that represents your innovation story in the best way possible. When you are thinking about how you want to present this information, you could choose to follow the guidelines detailed in the 6-slide examples, you could choose to work from flashcards, or you could present just by memory - whichever way makes you comfortable.

Earlier in this student guide we gave you some principles on how you might want to structure your 6-slide presentation. These can also be used for your verbal presentation; using them should assist you in covering all of the details you wish to present.

- Speak clearly
- Look at the camera
- Engage your audience
- Watch your timing - you have 3 minutes to present. This means you have 180 seconds to cover all the important details of your innovation story, or about 30 seconds per topic. Some topics take more time than others. You need to work this out for your presentation, but we suggest:
    - 30 seconds on your Introduction
    - 20 seconds on your Facts
    - 60 seconds on Your Solution
    - 20 seconds on Challenges
    - 20 seconds on Action
    - 30 seconds on Summary, Thank You and Goodbye
- Be interested in any feedback or questions asked. They may help you improve your innovation.
- Practice, Practice, PRACTICE! Practice really does make perfect.

U.S. NATIONAL INNOVATOR CHALLENGE

Pre-Registration Checklist

Before you embark on your innovation journey with NIC, ensure you have:

- DEVELOPED YOUR INNOVATION:
  - Documented your journey in a logbook or journal.
  - Identified a problem you're passionate about solving.
  - Conducted thorough research and brainstorm solutions.
  - Developed and refined your innovation.

- PREPARED TO MARKET YOUR INNOVATION
  - Researched potential markets for your innovation.
  - Understood why users would need your innovation.
  - Came up with a captivating name for your solution.
  - Created a 60 second pitch video highlighting your project.

- BEFORE REGISTERING
  - Prepare a 6 slide presentation detailing your innovative process as well as your innovation.
  - Create an image for your project.
  - Sign up at: https://nationalinnovatorchallenge.org/nic-registration/
    - Submit a registration form naming each teammate
    - Note: the team will be in an advisory panel based on the age of the oldest member of the team
  - Pay the non-refundable $30 registration fee (per participating student) and upload the required pieces

- AFTER REGISTERING
  - Regularly practice your presentation and refine your pitch.
  - Stay informed about critical dates and deadlines.
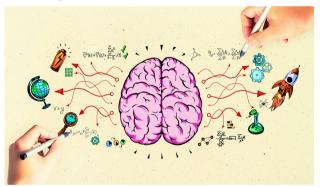
U.S. NATIONAL INNOVATOR CHALLENGE

What the Judges will be considering

There are important stages in your innovation process which the judges will want to understand. You should address the following list of questions in your logbook and be prepared to talk about them with the judges during your presentation. Highlights may also appear in your pitch video and/or slide deck.
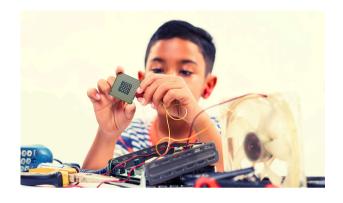
The Problem

IDENTIFYING & UNDERSTANDING

- What is the problem that the innovator is addressing?
- How did the innovator discover and identify the problem?
- Has the innovator identified the underlying causes or contributing factors to the problem?
- Does the innovator demonstrate an understanding of the potential impact of the problem?

IDEATING & BRAINSTORMING

- What techniques or strategies did the innovator use to generate ideas?
- How diverse and creative were the ideas generated during the brainstorming process?
- How did the innovator ensure that the brainstorming process embraced multiple perspectives?

RESEARCHING

- What credible sources did the innovator consult in their research?
- How effectively did the innovator make use of the information gathered from their research?
- How did the innovator utilize AI or other technological tools in gathering and analyzing data related to the problem?

EMPATHIZING

- Did the innovator explain how the experiences and perspectives of different groups are affected by this problem?
- In what ways did the innovator integrate feedback or insights from potential users into their understanding of the problem?

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The Solution

GENERATING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- What range of potential solutions did the innovator explore?
- How were AI, other technologies, or other resources used to enhance the creativity and effectiveness of the solutions?
- Did the innovator identify multiple, diverse possibilities for addressing the problem?

ORIGINALITY

- How is the innovation unique, novel, and creative?
- How is it distinguishable from prior ideas, apps, or prototypes and from those of their peers?

INNOVATIVE PROCESS

- How has the innovator shown adaptability in refining the solution based on new information or feedback?
- What strategies were employed to navigate and overcome challenges encountered during the development process?
- How well-developed are the innovator's ideas?
- Does the innovator provide clear and detailed explanations of how their ideas could work in practice?

CHOOSING THE SOLUTION

- Did the innovator consider how different stakeholders or users would react to the chosen solution? How did this influence the decision-making process?
- What makes this solution stand out from the other ideas considered?

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Research/Validation

IMPACT

- How significantly does this innovation solve the identified problem or improve upon existing solutions?
- What measurable benefits (social, environmental, economic) does this innovation offer?
- Are there any potential negative impacts or unintended consequences of this innovation? How are they addressed?

ORIGINALITY

- What elements of the innovation are novel, and how do they differ from existing solutions or ideas?
- How has the student demonstrated that their innovation is a unique solution to those not familiar with the subject area?
- In what ways has the innovation challenged conventional approaches or introduced a new perspective?

AUDIENCE

- Who is the target audience or beneficiary of this innovation, and how well is it tailored to their needs?
- How did the student determine the audience for their innovation? Was there any market research or analysis involved?
- In what ways has the student ensured that their innovation is accessible and usable by the intended audience?

Communication

LOGBOOK/JOURNAL

- Did the innovator explain the design process clearly and in a detailed manner (from identifying the problem through testing and refining the product, app, or idea), including evidence of critical thinking and problem-solving?
- Did they identify anyone who helped?
- Did they identify any materials used and how they obtained those materials?

VISUALS

- Did the presentation slide set have strong visual appeal?
- How effectively do the visuals aid in understanding the innovation and its functionality?
- Do the visuals enhance the audience's engagement and comprehension of the project?

PITCH VIDEO (FOR FIRST ROUND)

- Does the pitch video clearly and concisely present the innovation, its purpose, and its benefits?
- How engaging and persuasive is the pitch in garnering interest in the innovation?
- Does the video demonstrate a good understanding of the target audience and effectively communicate to them?

IMAGES

- Did the images, both public and for judges, effectively convey the innovation's purpose, functionality, and unique value proposition without compromising proprietary details?
- For the image(s) provided to judges with proprietary details, did the image clearly demonstrate how these elements enhance the innovation's functionality or uniqueness?
- Were the public images designed in a way that engaged a broad audience?

PRESENTATION AND Q&A (FOR LIVE EVENT)

- Did the innovator understand the questions and answer them clearly, fluently, and with confidence?
- Did the innovator present their own thinking and demonstrate originality?
- Does the presentation cover all critical aspects of the innovation effectively in an organized and engaging manner?

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Submissions Checklist

Logbook

- [ ] Identifies each step in the innovator's journey
- [ ] Includes a clear explanation of the idea, app, or prototype
- [ ] Highlights any key research and/or diagrams
- [ ] Is clearly labeled and organized
- [ ] Identifies any resources used or people who helped
- [ ] Is saved as a scanned image, PDF, or typed document

Visuals

- [ ] Slide deck is no more than 6 slides long
  - [ ] Includes presenter(s) name(s) & name of innovation
  - [ ] Describes the product, what problem it solves, & who will benefit from the innovation (including an image or diagram)
  - [ ] Explains what makes it unique & how the idea, app, or prototype originated
  - [ ] Highlights any market research, branding, or other relevant information
  - [ ] Is saved as a PPT or PDF
- [ ] .jpg picture to be used publicly with no private information
- [ ] .jpg picture or .pdf visual of innovation for judges to use

Pitch Video

- [ ] Communicates both the problem and the solution in a creative way
- [ ] Is 60 seconds long
- [ ] Contains the innovation name and the name(s) of the innovator(s)
- [ ] Captures the attention of the viewer
- [ ] Is uploaded to YouTube

U.S. NATIONAL INNOVATOR CHALLENGE

FAQs

Q: Am I eligible to participate in the US National Innovator Challenge?
A: Eligibility for the NIC extends to students aged 5 to 19 residing in the U.S. This includes high school students taking college courses, but not full-time college/university students.

Q: How do I qualify to participate in the NIC?
A: Innovators are selected to advance from qualifying partner organizations. Students who do not have another qualifying event may qualify through the Independent Innovator Challenge (IIC).

Q: May I enter myself or must I enter through my school?
A: Participants can enter either independently or as a representative of their school.

Q: May we enter as a team?
A: Yes, team entries are welcome. Please refer to the Team Requirements section for more details.

Q: May I use a project I submitted for a different competition?
A: Yes, as long as you have all of the pieces required for registration, you may use the same project that you have used in a different challenge or competition.

Q: Can I make changes to my registration once I have submitted?
A: In most cases, we are not able to accommodate changes after submission. If you have technical difficulties, please contact us at nic@hewittlearning.org .

Q: What will the first round look like?
A: In the first round, advisors assess each submission based on specific categories, evaluating logbooks, PowerPoint presentations, videos, and images. Participants receive feedback highlighting strengths and areas for improvement. Top innovations advance to a live Zoom event.

Q: What will the live event look like?
A: The live event features an advisory panel session with 2-10 projects per panel, conducted in a Zoom breakout room. Participants present for 3 minutes using their PowerPoint slides, followed by a 5-minute Q&A session. The advisory panel typically takes 60-100 minutes.

FAQs (CONT.)

Q: Do I need to prepare everything by myself?
A: Participants are responsible for creating all content. Assistance in learning skills like PowerPoint creation or prototype development is allowed but must be documented in the journal and presentation.

Q: Is the use of AI permitted in research and presentation for the IC?
A: Yes, AI can be utilized for research and presentation, provided its use is ethically sound and clearly documented.

Q: Are there specific presentation tools required for the NIC?
A: While PowerPoint is common, Google Slides is also acceptable. However, presentations in Prezi format are not currently supported. Ensure your presentation is uploaded in a format that can be easily operated by the facilitator (.pdf or .pptx).

Q: How should I format my presentation slides for easy facilitation?
A: Presentations should be saved in a format that allows smooth advancement by the facilitator, such as .pptx or .pdf for PowerPoint or Keynote, and public sharing settings for Google Slides.

Q: What should be included in my presentation slides?
A: Your slides should concisely highlight the key aspects of your innovation process, idea, app, or prototype, limited to a maximum of 6 slides. They serve as a digital version of a display board. Please see the Tips and Tricks document for more examples.

Q: How can I protect my intellectual property (IP) related to my NIC project?
A: It's important to understand and adhere to US IP laws. You might consider consulting with a legal professional to discuss a provisional patent or other forms of IP protection for your innovation.
Note: It is sole responsibility of the creator(s) of their innovation to determine whether their innovation requires protection and what type of protection it may require. It is the sole responsibility of the creator to contact the appropriate legal professionals to secure any or all protection they deem necessary.

Participant Community Guidelines

HONEST COMMUNICATION

Participants of the NIC are expected to engage in honest and respectful communication, which includes::

- **Adherence to Civility:** All interactions should align with our Code of Civility.
- **Accuracy in Statements:** Ensure that factual statements are accurate and opinions are genuinely held.
- **Legal Compliance:** All communications must comply with applicable laws in both the United States and any country from which they are posted.
- **Respect and Self-Respect:** Treat yourself and others with respect in all interactions.

We require that all NIC participants treat other people with respect. Any use of Communication Services (see the Code of Civility) to threaten, harass, stalk, or abuse others using these services is unacceptable and is strictly forbidden.

PROTECTING PRIVACY

- **Be Mindful of Personal Information:** Exercise caution in sharing personal information such as home addresses or contact details. Consult NIC staff for advice on sharing information safely

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND INCLUSIVITY

- **Commitment to Diversity:** The NIC is dedicated to fostering inclusive communities and promoting diversity. Discrimination of any kind, including based on race, gender, religion, or any other characteristic, is not tolerated.

CODE OF CIVILITY

- **Community Engagement:** By participating in NIC resources and programs, you agree to maintain a positive and constructive environment. This applies to our website, social media channels, and all forms of communication under the NIC.
- **Right to Moderate:** We reserve the right to remove participants or content that violates these guidelines.

CONFIDENTIALITY & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- **Ownership of Innovations:** The intellectual property of any innovation created for NIC belongs to its creator(s). It is your responsibility to seek appropriate legal protection if necessary.
- **Sharing Innovations Cautiously:** Be aware of intellectual property laws and consider the implications of sharing your innovation publicly. Avoid disclosing details that could jeopardize future patent opportunities.

Intellectual Property Concerns
What you should know about sharing information about your innovation before you share it with anyone.

Anytime you decide to share your idea or innovation, if you have a scientific discovery or invention that could lead to a patent or any other intellectual property protections, it is best to check your country's patent law before publicly sharing your idea. It is important to understand the intellectual property laws in your country if you have any plans to bring your product to market in the future. When presenting, be cautious about sharing the specific details of what you made and focus on sharing the general operation and benefits of your product.

Parent/Guardian Agreements

As a parent/guardian/teacher, by registering your child/student for the National Innovator Challenge (NIC), you agree to the following terms:

- Without expectation of compensation or other remuneration of any kind, now or in the future, on behalf of my registered student, I as guardian do hereby give consent, permission, and authorization to Hewitt Leaning, including its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, associations, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, assigns, licensees, designees, and agents, the irrevocable right to use my name, picture, likeness and/or photograph, biographical information and project title (collectively referred to as "Materials"), in all forms and media now known or hereafter developed, and in all manners, including composite representations, for advertising, marketing, trade, editorial, and any other purposes in perpetuity (in digital, web-based, hard-print or otherwise)
- Hewitt Learning's (including its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, associations, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, assigns, licensees, and designees and agents) use includes, without limitation, any advertising, video footage, recording, publication, website, radio, digital media, print media, or other promotional marketing or media activities, as well as, all film, motion picture and television rights (e.g., free television, pay television, basic cable, subscription, video-on-demand, pay-per-view, syndication, digital streaming, and all other methods of transmission delivery systems and formats).
- Both my registered child and I, as their guardian, hereby further release Hewitt Learning (and its affiliates, subsidiaries, associations, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, assigns, licensees, designees, and agents) from any and all claims or disputes, including damages in any form, for libel, slander, right of publicity, invasion of right of privacy, trademark infringement or false endorsement, breach of contract, or any other tortious claim or persona right associated with Hewitt Learning's use of said name, image, and likeness, and further, hereby acknowledge that Hewitt Learning (and its affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, and agents) shall have no obligation to use said name, image, or likeness.
- This consent is given in perpetuity and does not require prior approval. By completing the online registration and paying the non-refundable registration fee, I hereby grant my child permission to participate in the National Innovator Challenge (NIC) hosted by Hewitt Learning and its affiliates, subsidiaries, associations, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, assigns, licensees, designees, and agents.
- I have been thoroughly informed of the rules and requirements of the NIC and its affiliates.
- I understand and consent to my child being in contact (virtually, in person, or Hybrid) with Hewitt Learning, including its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, associations, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, assigns, licensees, designees, and agents, for the purpose of judging my child's project.
- I hereby release Hewitt Learning and its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, associations, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, assigns, licensees, designees, and agents, from responsibility and liability for any damage, injury, or illness that my child may sustain as a result of or in any way connected to my child's participation in the Innovator Challenge and, further, waive any and all rights to assert any claims against Hewitt Learning for any damages allegedly sustained as a result of my child's participation in the National Innovator Challenge.
- Hewitt Learning, including its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, associations, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, assigns, licensees, designees, and agents, reserves the right to revoke recognition of a project subsequently found to have been fraudulent. Furthermore, in collaboration with the NIC's Student Standards & Ethics Policy, in the event Hewitt Learning, including its parent, affiliates, subsidiaries, associations, successors, members, directors, officers, principals, partners, assigns, licensees, designees, and agents, have paid registrations, fees, or other expenses for a student found in violation of the above policy, such expenses are repayable to the respective Challenge by the student and/or their family. Any and all awards, including, but not limited to, trophies, scholarships, items, and/or cash, are revoked by the respective Challenge will be forfeited by the student. The student will not be allowed to compete in future Challenges without written permission from the Challenge Director.

Parent/Guardian Agreements

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSENT

- **Oversight of Child's Participation:** You acknowledge your responsibility for your child's conduct during the NIC and agree to guide them in adhering to the NIC's standards and community guidelines.
- **Release from Liability:** You release Hewitt Learning from any liability for damages, injuries, or illnesses your child may sustain during their participation in the NIC.
- **Acknowledgment of Fraudulent Activity Consequences:** In cases of fraudulent activity or violation of NIC's ethics policies, you understand that recognition and awards may be revoked and expenses may be repayable.

Below this line is optional for the use of teachers or programs. By registering your student online, you are agreeing to these items.

BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT

I understand and agree that my child's behavior with regard to their participation in the National Innovator Challenge is my responsibility. I will instruct my child in proper behavior and ensure that they respect and adhere to the Code of Conduct, which includes the Participant Community Guidelines and the following:

- The content of my child's project submission in the National Innovator Challenge shall be age appropriate and non-discriminatory.
- My child's National Innovator Challenge project submission must be of a nature where it cannot cause harm to property, animals, my child or other children, and any other adults.
- Plagiarism, defined as when an author attempts to pass off someone else's work as their own, of any type and format, is strictly prohibited.

In the event of (a) behavior problem(s) regarding my child's participation in the National Innovator Challenge or failure to adhere to the Participant Community Guidelines, I understand that I will be contacted to correct any problem or issue. In the event a problem or issue cannot be corrected, I recognize my child will no longer be allowed to participate in the NationalInnovator Challenge for the remainder of the event year.

CONSENT AND AGREEMENT FORM

By registering your student/child you agree to the following:

- **Student's Acknowledgment:** "I, [Student's Name], understand the expectations of my participation in the NIC and accept responsibility for my actions and behavior."
- **Parent/Guardian's Acknowledgment:** "I, [Parent/Guardian's Name], as the legal guardian, approve this agreement and have discussed the NIC's ethics and policies with my child."

Signatures:

- **Student: _____**

- **Parent/Guardian: _____**

- **Date: _____**

U.S. NATIONAL INNOVATOR CHALLENGE