The Ethics Lab

Chapter.

A starter packet for students starting an Ethics Lab chapter at their school.



Inside: what a chapter does, your season plan meeting by meeting, how to recruit, an email to send a teacher sponsor, how to run a lesson discussion, your weekly check-in sheet, and answers to common questions.

The Ethics Lab is a student-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Starting a chapter is free.

START HERE

What a chapter does

A chapter is a group of students at your school who learn about AI together. You need to be in a chapter to enter the Social Innovation Challenge, and anyone in a chapter can enter. Here is what a chapter does.

1 **Start your chapter**

Find your school at ethicslabs.ai/chapters, make a free account, and you're a chapter. Your chapter is approved right away. We highly recommend a 15-minute welcome call with Anshul afterward to walk you through what your chapter can do. If your school already has a chapter, join that one instead.

2 **Teach the lessons (optional)**

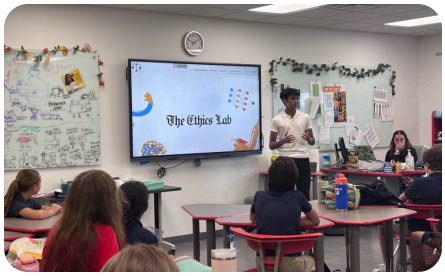
We have 10 optional lessons. One per meeting, at school, if you want. Press play, then talk it through. Members who finish earn a digital certificate.

3 **Make one video for our Instagram**

A short video introducing your chapter for our main account, @the_ethics_lab. We post it and tag you.

4 **Build an AI project and enter the Social Innovation Challenge**

Anyone in your chapter can enter, solo or in a team of up to 4. Build an AI-driven project that helps your community, then send a video (up to 3 minutes) and a one-pager. $500, $250, and $100 for the top three. Details: ethicslabs.ai/chapters.







What you get once you're approved

The 10 optional lessons with videos, discussion questions, worksheets, and guides, kickoff slides, a recruiting poster maker, member certificates, check-ins with our team, the chapter leaders' Discord, and a feature on our Instagram. Chapter accounts with a join code for members are coming soon.

YOUR SEASON

Meeting by meeting

About 15 meetings across the school year. One a week is a good pace, but go at whatever speed works at your school.

Meeting	What happens	Done?
1 · Kickoff	Run the kickoff slides. Write down every member's name so you have a roster. Pick a regular meeting time.	
2 to 11	Optional: one lesson per meeting. Play the video, then run the discussion (page 5). About 40 minutes each.	
Any time	Film your chapter's Instagram video for @the_ethics_lab and send it to your Ethics Lab contact.	
12 · Pick teams and projects	What problem do you see at your school or in your town? Members go solo or form teams of up to 4, and each picks a problem AI could help solve.	
13 to 14 · Build it	Build your AI project and get real people to use it. Take photos and count how many people it helped.	
15 · Submit	Film your video (up to 3 minutes) and write your one-pager. Submit by the deadline in the competition details.	

Project starters, if you're stuck

Study helper

An AI study helper for a class at your school, checked by a teacher.

Fake-news checker

A tool that helps people spot fake news, scams, or deepfakes.

New-student chatbot

A chatbot that answers questions for new students or families at your school.

Your own idea

The best projects come from a problem you actually see. It just has to use AI.

GETTING PEOPLE AND A YES

Recruiting and a sponsor

Recruiting checklist

- [ ] Ask 2 or 3 friends to be officers with you
- [ ] Make a flyer with your school's name using the poster maker in your kit
- [ ] Ask for a spot in the morning announcements
- [ ] Post on your school's club Instagram or group chat
- [ ] Tell people the hook: free certificate, service hours, and a shot at $500

Most schools need a staff sponsor to make a club official. Send something like this.

Subject: Could you sponsor an AI club?

Hi _____,

I'm starting a chapter of The Ethics Lab at _____. It's a student-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit that teaches high schoolers how AI works: deepfakes, cheating, privacy, and how to use it well.

The lessons, worksheets, and guides are already made and free, so there's no prep for you. We'd meet once a week, and members build AI projects that help our community for a national student competition.

All I'd need is a room and a sponsor's name on the club form. Could I have 10 minutes this week to show you the plan?

Thanks,

_____

If they say "I'm too busy"

Ask if you can just use their room at lunch. That's a smaller ask.

If you're still stuck

Tell us on your check-in. We can email the teacher for you.

EVERY LESSON MEETING

Running the discussion

After each lesson video, sit in a circle for 15 to 20 minutes. One student moderates, one takes notes.

The three rules (read them out loud first)

1. **Everyone talks once before anyone talks twice.**
2. **Say back the last point before you disagree with it.** "So you're saying... but I think..."
3. **Argue with the idea, not the person.**

A prompt for each lesson

Lesson	Prompt
What is AI?	Is a chatbot that sounds human actually thinking? Does it matter?
How AI works	If AI learns from the internet, whose views does it end up with?
Deepfakes	Should making a deepfake of a classmate be a school offense, a crime, or neither?
AI sycophancy	Would you rather an AI agree with you or tell you you're wrong?
Plagiarism and copyright	If AI writes it and you edit it, whose work is it?
AI, art, and creativity	Should AI art be allowed in a school art show?
Data privacy	What's one thing you'd never tell an AI? Why that?
Cheating with AI	Where's the line between using AI to learn and using it to cheat?
Practical tools and uses	What's one thing AI should never do for a student?
Looking ahead	Will AI make the job you want easier, harder, or gone?

Close every discussion with one sentence each: "I used to think... now I think..." Keep the note taker's best points. They make good material for your one-pager.

YOUR CHECK-INS

Check-ins with our team

Our partnerships team checks in with you through the season. Fill this in before each one so the call is quick.

Question	Your answer
How many members came this week?	
Which lesson did you run, and how did the discussion go?	
What's stuck? (No sponsor, no room, people stopped coming)	
What will you get done before next time?	

Stuck? That's what the check-in is for.

The usual problems: a teacher won't reply (we can email them), people stop coming (shorter meetings, bring food, move to lunch), or you can't pick a project (we'll brainstorm with you). Tell us early.

Service hours

We're a 501(c)(3), so we sign off on the hours you spend running your chapter: meetings, planning, and your project. Your district decides what counts, so check with your counselor first.

LAST PAGE

Common questions

What does it cost?	Nothing. No dues and no fees.
How many members do I need?	There's no minimum. Start with a few friends and grow from there.
Do I need to know about AI?	No. Our 10 lessons are optional, but they cover the basics if you want a head start.
Where do we meet?	In person at your school, whenever works: lunch, after school, or a club period.
I already run an AI or ethics club.	Bring it in. Keep your club's name and officers, and run our lessons and the Challenge as your chapter.

Ready? Here's where to go.

START A CHAPTER

ethicslabs.ai/chapters

Free account, about two minutes. Start here.

EMAIL US

anik@ethicslabs.ai

Questions are welcome any time.

DISCORD

ethicslabs.ai/discord

Ask our team and other chapter leaders.



Competition details at ethicslabs.ai/chapters · Instagram @the_ethics_lab