

Rules for All Categories

Rule 1: Annual Theme: The entry must relate clearly to the annual theme and explain your topic's significance in history.

Rule 2: Contest Participation: The projects are researched by the group or the individual, not by the parents or the teacher. Research is only shared with the other students who are fellow participants in the Group Entries.

Rule 3: Individual or Group Entries: A paper, individual exhibit, individual performance, individual web site, individual documentary, or individual 2-D display must be the work of **only one** student. A group exhibit, group performance, group web site, group documentary, or group 2-D display must be the work of 2 to 5 students. All students in a group entry must be involved in the research and interpretation of the group's topic.

Rule 4: Development Requirements: Entries submitted for competition must be original and have been researched and developed in the current contest year. *Revising or reusing an entry from a previous year—whether it is yours or another student's - will result in disqualification.*

Rule 5: Construction of Entry: You are responsible for the research, design, and creation of your entry. You may receive help and advice from teachers and parents on the mechanical aspects of creating your entry.

1. You may have help typing your paper and other written materials.
2. You may seek guidance from your teachers as you research and analyze your material, but your conclusions must be your own.
3. You may have photographs and slides commercially developed.

Rule 6: Contest Day Set-up: You are responsible for setting up your own exhibit, equipment, or props at the contest. You may have reasonable help carrying them, but set-up must be completed by you alone or, if applicable, you and your group members.

Rule 7: Equipment/Supplies: You are responsible for supplying all props and equipment.

Rule 8: Discussion with Judges: You should be prepared to respond to judges' questions about the content and development of your entry. You will not give a formal, prepared introduction, narration, or conclusion. **Let the judges' questions guide the interview.** You should be prepared to explain the design, research, and creation of your entry if questioned by the judges. Judges need to know that your entry is the result of your own work.

Rule 9: Costumes: Only participants in the performance category may wear costumes related to the focus of their entry.

Rule 10: Prohibited Materials: Items potentially dangerous in any way—such as weapons, firearms, animals, organisms, plants, etc. - are strictly prohibited.

Rule 11: Title: Your entry must have a title that is clearly visible on all written materials.

Rule 12: Written Material: Your entry must include the following written material *in the order presented below*:

1. Title page as described in Rule 13
2. Process paper as described in Rule 14 (process papers are not part of historical paper entries)
3. Annotated bibliography as described in Rule 15

These materials must be typed or neatly printed on plain white paper, and stapled together in the top left corner. Do not enclose them in a cover or binder. You must provide four copies of these materials, except in the Historical Paper and Web Site categories. Students submitting Web Site entries must integrate these required — written materials into the site. Historical Paper entries include the title page and annotated bibliography only.

Rule 14: Plagiarism: You must acknowledge in your annotated bibliography all sources used in your entry. *Failure to credit sources is plagiarism and will result in disqualification.*

Exhibit (EXH)

Individual Exhibits are judged alongside other Individual Exhibits within the same grade-span division as are Group Exhibits. An exhibit is a visual representation of your research and interpretation of your topic's significance in history, much like a *small museum exhibit*. The analysis and interpretation of your topic must be clear and evident to the viewer. Labels and captions should be used creatively with visual images and objects to enhance the message of your exhibit.

In addition to the rules below, Rules for All Categories apply to exhibits.

Rule EXH-1: Size Requirements: The overall size of your exhibit when displayed for judging must be no larger than 40 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 6 feet high. Measurement of the exhibit does not include the table on which it rests; however, it would include any stand that you create and any table drapes. Circular or rotating exhibits or those meant to be viewed from all sides must be no more than 30 inches in diameter.

Rule EXH-2: Media Devices: Media devices (e.g., DVD players, projectors, video monitors, computers) used in an exhibit must not run for more than a total of 3 minutes and are subject to the 500-word limit (Rule EX3). Viewers and judges must be able to control media devices. A brief excerpt from a taped student-conducted oral interview or a dramatic reading is appropriate, but taped commentary or analysis is inappropriate.

Rule EXH-3: Word Limit: A 500-word limit applies to all text created by the student that appears on, or as part of, an exhibit entry. This includes the text you write for titles, subtitles, captions, graphs, timelines, media devices (e.g., video, slides, computer files), or supplemental materials (e.g., photo albums, scrapbooks, etc.) where you use your own words. Brief citations crediting the sources of illustrations or quotations included on the exhibit do not count toward the 500-word limit.

NOTE: A date counts as one word, while each word in a name is individually counted.

Web Site (WEB)

Entries in this category should include primary and secondary sources, interactive multimedia, and historical analysis. It should incorporate textual and non-textual photographs, maps, music, etc.) descriptions, interpretations, and sources to engage and inform viewers. All web site entries **MUST** be developed using the NHD online web site editor. You will access this through the NHD web site at www.nhd.org.

Rule WEB-1: Entry Production: All entries must be original productions constructed using the online NHD web site editor beginning at the school level. You may use professional photographs, graphics, video, recorded music, etc., within the site. Such items must be integrated into the web site, and proper credit must be given within the site as well as in the annotated bibliography.

Rule WEB-2: Size Requirements: Web site entries may contain no more than 1,200 visible, student-composed words. Code used to build the site and alternate text tags on images do not count toward the word limit. Also excluded are: words found in materials used for identifying illustrations or used to briefly credit the sources of illustrations and quotations; recurring menus, titles, and navigation instructions; words within primary documents and artifacts; and the annotated bibliography and process paper that must be integrated into the site. The entire site, including all multimedia, the process paper, and annotated bibliography, may use no more than 100MB of file space.

Rule WEB-3: Navigation: One page of the web site must serve as the —home page. The home page must include the names of participants, entry title, division, and the main menu that directs viewers to the various sections of the site. All pages must be interconnected with hypertext links. Automatic redirects are not permitted.

Rule WEB-4: Multimedia: Each multimedia clip may not last more than 45 seconds. You may record quotes and primary source materials for dramatic effect, but you may not narrate your own compositions or other explanatory material. All multimedia must be stored within the site; you may not use embedded material hosted elsewhere (e.g., YouTube, Google Video). There is no limit to the number of multimedia clips you may use, but you must respect the file size limit. If you use any form of multimedia that requires specific software to view (e.g., Flash, QuickTime, Real Player), you must provide on the same page a link to an Internet site where the software is available as a free, secure, and legal download. Judges will make every effort to view all multimedia content, but files that cannot be viewed cannot be evaluated as part of the entry.

Rule WEB-5: Required Written Materials: The annotated bibliography and process paper must be included as an integrated part of the web site. They should be included in the navigational structure. They do **NOT** count toward the 1,200 student-composed word limit.

Performance (PER)

A performance is a dramatic portrayal of your topic's significance in history and must be original in production. It must be scripted by you based on research of your chosen topic. Your performance should have dramatic appeal, but not at the expense of historical information.

In addition to the rules below, Rules for All Categories apply to performances.

Rule PER-1: Time Requirements: Performances may not exceed 10 minutes in length. Timing starts at the beginning of the performance following the announcement of the title and student name(s). Any other introductory remarks will be considered part of the performance and will be counted as part of the overall time. You will be allowed an additional 5 minutes to set up and 5 minutes to remove any props needed for your performance.

Rule PER-2: Performance Introduction: The title of your entry and the names of the participants must be the first and only announcements prior to the start of the performance.

Rule PER-3: Media Devices: Use of slides, tape recorders, computers, or other media within your performance is permitted. You must provide and run all equipment, as well as carry out any special lighting or sound effects.

Rule PER-4: Script: The script for the performance should **not** be included with the written material presented to the judges.

Rule PER-5: Costumes: You may have costumes.

Documentary (DOC)

A documentary should reflect your ability to use audiovisual equipment to communicate your topic's significance, much as professional documentarians do. The documentary category will help you develop skills in using photographs, film, video, audiotapes, computers, and graphic presentations. Your presentation should include primary source materials and also must be an original production. To produce a documentary you must have access to equipment and be able to operate it. In addition to the specific rules below, Rules for All Categories apply to documentaries.

Rule DOC-1: Time Requirements: Documentaries may not exceed 10 minutes in length. You will be allowed an additional 5 minutes to set up and 5 minutes to remove equipment. Timing will begin when the first visual image of the presentation appears and/or the first sound is heard. Audio and visual leads will be counted in the time limit. Timing will end when the last visual image or sound of the presentation concludes (including credits). *NOTE: Use your set-up time to prepare your documentary for presentation, focus equipment, adjust volume, etc.*

Rule DOC-2: Introduction: You must announce only the title of your presentation and names of participants.

Rule DOC-3: Student Involvement: You are responsible for running all equipment.

Rule DOC-4: Student Production: All entries must be student-produced. You must operate all equipment. You must provide the narration, voice-over, and dramatization. Only those students listed as entrants may participate in the production. Only entrants and the subjects of their interviews (participants in an historical event or experts) may appear on camera.

Rule DOC-5: Entry Production: Your entry must be an original production. You may use professional photographs, film, slides, recorded music, etc., within your presentation. However, you must integrate such items into your presentation and give proper credit at the end of your presentation as well as in your annotated bibliography. You must operate all editing equipment used in the production of your presentation. Using material created by others specifically for use in your entry violates this rule.

Rule DOC-6: Credits: At the conclusion of the documentary, you must provide a list of acknowledgments and credits for all sources. These credits should be brief - not full bibliographic citations and not annotated. All sources (music, images, film/media clips, interviews, books, web sites) used in the making of the documentary should be properly cited in the annotated bibliography. The list of credits counts toward the 10-minute time limit and should be readable by viewers.

Rule DOC-7: Displays: Stand alone displays are not part of this category and are prohibited.

Rule DOC-8: Computer Entries: You must be able to run the program within the 10-minute time limit. Interactive computer programs and web pages in which the audience or judges are asked to participate are not acceptable; judges are not permitted to operate any equipment. Students must provide and be able to run their own computers, software, and other equipment. Internet access will not be available.

2-Dimensional Display (DIS)

The 2-Dimensional Display is a scaled-down version of the exhibit category. This entry category is available only to participants in the Elementary Division.

Rule DIS-1: Size and Shape: Your 2-D Display will be a rectangle no larger than 30" x 40" in size. It may be oriented either as portrait or landscape.

Rule DIS-2: Construction: Your project must be flat. It will contain no protruding elements. The display backing may be cardboard, mat board, poster board, foam board, or other flat material. You may attach flat paper items such as written materials, decorative paper, images, labels, etc. to your display backing. However, you may not raise these materials by mounting them on any material that causes them to protrude – they must lie flat on your backing. Do not use ribbon, buttons, or other materials that result in a raised or textured surface.

Rule DIS-3: Word Limit: A limit of 350 words applies to all text created by the student that appears on, or as part of, a 2-D display entry. This includes the text you write for titles, subtitles, captions, graphs, and timelines where you use your own words. Brief citations crediting the sources of illustrations or quotations included on the exhibit do not count toward the 350 student-composed word limit. This word limit does not apply to your process paper and annotated bibliography. *NOTE: A date counts as one word, while each word in a name is individually counted. For example, January 1, 1900 counts as one word, but John Quincy Adams counts as three. Words such as —a, the, and, of--- are counted as one word each.*

Historical Paper (HPA)

A paper is the traditional form of presenting historical research. Various types of creative writing (for example, fictional diaries, poems, etc.) are permitted, but must conform to all general and category rules. Your Historical Paper should be grammatically correct and well written.

Rules for All Categories apply to the Historical Paper category with the exception of Rule 14. Historical Paper entries do not require a process paper.

Rule HPA-1: Length Requirements: The text of historical papers must be no less than 1,500 and no more than 2,500 words in length. Each word or number in the text of the paper counts as one word. The 2,500-word limit does not apply to notes, annotated bibliography, illustration captions, and supplemental/appendix material. Appendix material must be referred to in the text of the paper. Extensive supplemental materials are inappropriate. Use of appendices should be very limited and may include photographs, maps, charts, and graphs, but no other supplemental materials. Transcripts, correspondence, questionnaires, and other sources should be cited in your annotated bibliography but not included as attachments to your paper.

Rule HPA-2: Citations: Citations—footnotes, endnotes, or internal documentation—are required. Citations are used to credit the sources of specific ideas as well as direct quotations. Please note that an extensively annotated footnote should not be used to get around the word limit.

Rule HPA-3: Preparation Requirement: Papers must be typed, computer printed, or legibly handwritten in ink on plain, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper with 1-inch margins on all sides. Pages must be numbered consecutively beginning with the first page following the title page (do not number the title page), and double-spaced with writing on one side and with no more than 12 characters per inch or no less than 10-point type.