



National History Day in Nevada

How Do I Put It All Together?

Once you have chosen a category, you should apply your information-gathering skills to finding out about your category. Your public or school library may have books about constructing museum exhibits, filming video documentaries, performing dramas, creating websites, and writing research papers. Ask teachers in your school, or the librarian. Take advantage of their knowledge. Do they have any advice, pointers or tricks-of-the-trade they can share? You'll never know unless you ask! Remember, your entry must be completely your own work. No one else may help you with the actual writing of papers or text, filming, typing or building of your entry.

How Do I Know I'm Doing It Right?

The only way to make sure your entry meets all of the required rules and regulations is to read them carefully and then follow them.

1. Have I read all of the rules?
2. Do I understand them? If not, have I asked a teacher or called the state coordinator for help?
3. Have I had a teacher or parent read the rules and check my work?

How Will My Entry Be Judged?

The Evaluation Process:

The goal of National History Day is to provide you with a high-quality educational experience. The judge's evaluation is part of the learning and skill-building process of NHD. The judges' evaluations help you to improve areas or skills and provide positive feedback for the hard work you put into producing your project. Remember, regardless of how your entry is ranked, by participating in National History Day you will benefit from the experience as you gain research, thinking, and presentation skills; you will become an expert on a topic of interest to you; you will acquire poise and self-confidence and will learn to manage your time.

Who are the Judges?

Historians, educators, and others interested in history and education serve as judges at the History Day contest. These individuals are contributing their time because they want to share their enthusiasm for history and their expertise with you!

How Does the Judging Process Work?

Each separate division and category is usually judged as a whole by a team of judges. Judges will sit in a room with the student(s) and ask them questions about their entry. Questions will vary but if you are clear on your process and your research you will do well.

Consensus Judging

Judge teams will not assign a numerical score to entries, but will rank the entries in each category. *The Decision of the Judge Team is Final*

Judging is Subjective

Remember: judges must evaluate certain aspects of your entry that are objective (i.e. were primary sources used; is the written material grammatical and correctly spelled). But judges must also evaluate subjective aspects of your entry (i.e. analysis and conclusions about the historical data.) Historians often reach different opinions about the significance of the same data. Therefore, it is crucial for you to base your interpretations and conclusions on solid research. Judges will check to determine whether you used available primary sources and if you were careful to examine all sides of an issue to present a balanced account of your research and presentation. Your process paper and annotated bibliography are critical to this process.