
III. Individual Category Rules

A. Paper

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 paper should be grammatically correct and well written.

Part II, Rules for all Categories (except for Rule 14), applies to papers.

Rule A1: 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.

NOTE: Oral history transcripts, correspondence between you and experts, questionnaires, and other primary or secondary materials used as sources for your paper should be cited in your bibliography but not included as attachments to your paper.

Rule A2: Citations

Citations—footnotes, endnotes, or internal documentation—are required. Citations are used to credit the sources of specific ideas as well as direct quotations. Refer to Part II, Rule 17, for citation styles. Please note that an extensively annotated footnote should not be used to get around the word limit.

Rule A3: Preparation Requirements

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 and double-spaced with writing on one side and with no more than 12 characters per inch or no less than 10-point type. Papers must be stapled in the top left corner and should not be enclosed in a cover or binder. The title page should have no illustrations.

Rule A4: Number of Copies

Four copies of the paper must be submitted prior to the contest, via the appropriate registration process, by the deadline established for the contest. Winning papers sometimes are published by contest officials; you must be prepared to give permission for such publication. You must bring a copy of your paper to the contest for your use.

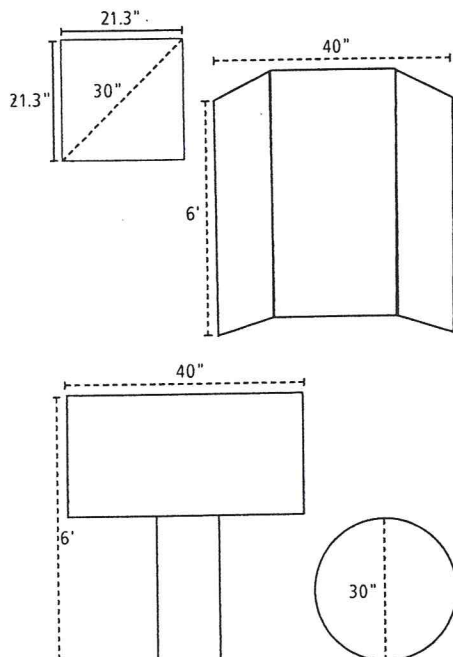
B. Exhibit

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.

Part II, Rules for all Categories, applies to exhibits.

Rule B1: 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. (See diagram below.)



Rule B2: 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 B3). Viewers and judges must be able to control media devices. Any media devices must fit within the size limits of the exhibit. Any media devices used should be integral to the exhibit—not a method to bypass the prohibition against live student involvement.

NOTE: For example, a brief excerpt from a taped student-conducted oral interview or a dramatic reading is appropriate, but taped commentary or analysis is inappropriate.

Rule B3: 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. 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.

NOTE: Be careful that your message is clear and contained on the exhibit itself; judges have little time to review supplemental material. Extensive supplemental material is inappropriate. For example, oral history transcripts, correspondence between you and experts, questionnaires, and other primary or secondary materials used as sources for your exhibit should be cited in your bibliography but not included as attachments to your bibliography or exhibit.

C. Performance

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

Part II, Rules for all Categories, applies to performances.

Rule C1: 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.

NOTE: You should allow several empty seconds in your performance to account for unplanned pauses (e.g., applause, forgotten lines, etc.).

Rule C2: 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 C3: Media Devices

Use of slides, tape recorders, computers, or other media within your performance is permitted. You must provide and run all equipment and carry out any special lighting or sound effects.

Rule C4: Script

The script for the performance should not be included with the written material presented to the judges.

Rule C5: Costumes

You may have a costume produced for you, but the design, choice of fabrics, etc., must be your own. Or, you may rent a costume. Remember: simple is best.

D. Documentary

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 materials and also must be an original production. To produce a documentary you must have access to equipment and be able to operate it.

Part II, Rules for all Categories, applies to documentaries.

Rule D1: 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 D2: Introduction

You must announce only the title of your presentation and names of participants. Comments prior to or during the presentation, including live narration, are prohibited.

Rule D3: Student Involvement

You are responsible for running all equipment.

Rule D4: 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 D5: 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 (per Rule D6) 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.

NOTE: Remember that different equipment may affect how your documentary appears on the screen. You may wish to test equipment provided at competitions beforehand, bring back-up copies of your documentary in different formats, and/or bring your own equipment. There is no penalty for displaying your documentary on a laptop computer and many students use them successfully as a backup measure.

Rule D6: 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 D7: Displays

Stand alone displays are prohibited.

Rule D8: 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.

E. Web Site

The web site category is the most interactive of all NHD categories. Therefore, a web site should reflect your ability to use web site design software and computer technology to communicate the topic's significance in history. Your historical web site should be a collection of web pages, interconnected by hyperlinks, that presents 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. To construct a web site project, you must be able to operate, and have access to, the Internet, appropriate software and equipment.

Part II, Rules for all Categories, applies to web sites.

Rule E1: Entry Production

All entries must be original productions constructed using the 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. You must operate all software and equipment in the development of the web site.