

How to Write the NHD Process Paper

Each group or individual who enters the Exhibit, Performance, or Documentary Categories must produce a Process Paper.

THIS IS NOT A REPORT!!

THIS IS A NARRATIVE, EXPLAINING HOW YOUR PROJECT CAME TOGETHER!!

There are three parts to this paper. You must follow the rules exactly as stated in the NHD Contest Rules!!

1. Title Page

A title page is required as the first page of written material in every category.

Your title page must include only the title of your entry, your name(s) and the contest division and category in which you are entered.

No images, drawings, borders etc. are allowed on your title page!

2. Process Paper

This paper describes how you put your project together. There is one per group or individual project.

This paper can be no more than 500 words.

The word limit does not include the Title Page or Annotated Bibliography.

Paragraph 1: Describe your History Fair Topic. How/why did you choose your topic? Explain why your topic is important. (DO NOT INTRODUCE YOURSELF OR MENTION WHERE YOU ARE FROM)

Paragraph 2 and 3: Begin to explain where you found most of your research. If a person (librarian?) was very helpful, it is a good idea to mention them here. Also, mention two or three of your most useful sources here and why they were helpful to your project.

How to Write the NHD Process Paper

Paragraph 4: If you encountered any problems during your research or in producing your project mention it here. If you were looking for a specific source and had difficulty locating it, mention it here.

Paragraph 5: State how your topic fits into this year's Contest theme. Discuss the importance of your topic in history. Use this paragraph to stress to the judges why your topic is important.

3. Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is required for all categories. It should contain all sources that provided usable information or new perspectives in preparing your entry. You will look at many more sources than you actually use.

You should list only those sources that contributed to the development of your entry.

Sources of visual materials and oral interviews must be included. The annotations for each source must explain how the source was used and how it helped you understand your topic.

See Bibliography Worksheet for instructions on how to set up the Bibliography for all sources

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

Annotations should not be a book report, but 2-4 sentences that describe how or why the source was important to your research.

You are required to separate your bibliography into primary and secondary sources.

Use the annotation to explain why you listed a source as primary or secondary

Attached you will find a sample process paper and cover page from the NHD Website:

Process Paper

Why I chose this topic:

Last year, I researched Johann Gutenberg which led me to learn about the Renaissance and the Reformation. After going to the state competition, I did additional research on the influence of the printing press in contributing to the Reformation and learned about Martin Luther. Luther and his influence seemed very interesting and I wanted to learn more. Also, since I had a good knowledge of the early history of Europe from my Gutenberg project, I decided to build on that and chose to research Martin Luther and the Reformation.

How I conducted my research:

First, I went on the Internet at school. I then consulted a librarian at my school and got two very useful books. I took notes on those sources. I then outlined my ideas on large flip-chart paper. After doing that I learned that I needed much more information to continue. I went to the electronic encyclopedia on my computer at home and printed out every topic I needed more information on. I went to a public library. I also conducted an interview with our minister to be able to discuss my developing ideas. Next, I interviewed a research librarian at the Illiff School of Theology and acquired primary sources. There were a lot of these. They helped me understand why Luther's impact on society was so great. I immediately started my annotated bibliography so it would not be left until the last minute. Again, but with much more information now, I laid out key ideas on flip charts and started planning my exhibit.

How I created and developed my exhibit:

I prepared one flip chart that outlined events before Martin Luther, another that outlined events after Luther, and the last one, events that occurred during the lifetime of Luther. I then made a draft of the timeline, text and picture captions that I was going

to use on my board. Then I typed up the text and printed it out in the size and font I needed for the exhibit. I experimented with different boards, and found one that would be wonderful. I laid everything out on my board as a "draft." I condensed the information down so everything would fit, tell the story I wanted to tell and meet the criteria for NHD. Finally, I glued everything down. I then outlined my oral presentation and practiced it in front of my parents.

How my project relates to the theme:

My project relates to the theme in several ways. My project focuses on Martin Luther--a person, yet, when you learn about Luther, it is directly tied in with an event--posting the 95 Theses, and the Protestant Reformation--an idea. It is also a turning point in history. If Martin Luther and other reformers had not taken action, there might not be all of the different religions we know today. The primary religion in Europe and in the New World might still be Roman Catholicism.

(495 words)

Martin Luther and the Reformation

Catherine Norbeck
Junior Division
Individual Exhibit