

# History Fair (DAY)



So you're doing a History Fair Project. This guide will help you as you follow along the series of steps to completion.

## Glossary:

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Remember

**Rule #1-** Yes; History Fair (DAY) should be fun. You should be interested in your Topic.

**Rule #2-** Live by the site- <http://nhd.org/contest-affiliates/annual-theme/>

**Rule #3-** Follow the theme-



Think of as many ideas that fit the theme as possible (be original- no one wants the same old boring theme).

Be specific.

- How was my topic significant in history in relation to the NHD theme?
- How did my topic develop over time?
- How did my topic influence history?
- How did the events and atmosphere (social, economic, political, and cultural aspects) of my topic's time period influence my topic in history?
- Why is my topic important?
  - Theme: Leadership and Legacy
  - Interest: presidential power
  - Topic: Andrew Jackson and the removal of the Cherokee Nation
  - Issue: the refusal of a president to enforce a Supreme Court ruling

Example projects

- Taking a Stand Against the British: The Reorganization of the Continental Army at Valley Forge
- Roger Williams' Stand Against Exile: The Establishment of Rhode Island
- Thurgood Marshall: Taking a Stand in Court Against Segregation
- The Power of Words: Thomas Paine's Fight Against Tyranny
- The War on Poverty: Johnson Stands for "The Other America"

# Tentative Calendar

Date	Deadline
June	Think about History Fair/Day Topic (Remember be Specific!) Remember to bounce ideas off Mr. Langer.
July	Think about History Fair/Day Topic (Remember be Specific!) Remember to bounce ideas off Mr. Langer.
August	Think about History Fair/Day Topic (Remember be Specific!) Remember to bounce ideas off Mr. Langer. Choose a project category
September	Think about History Fair/Day Topic (Remember be Specific!) Remember to bounce ideas off Mr. Langer. Choose a project category Start collecting appropriate research
October	Choose a project category Continue collecting appropriate research
November	Continue collecting appropriate research Focus on project category construction
December	School Competition
January	Prepare for Regionals
February	Possible Regional's
March	Possible Regional's
April	Paper work turned in for States
May	States in Tallahassee

Gantt Chart	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Idea										
Category Choice										
Research										
Project Construction										
School										
Regionals										

**Rule #4-** Research, Research and then Research some more.

<http://nhd.org/entering-contest/#toggle-id-2>

#### Develop a Thesis Statement

NHD projects should do more than just tell a story. Every exhibit, performance, documentary, paper and website should make a point about its topic. To do this, you must develop your own argument of the historical impact of the person, event, pattern or idea you are studying. The point you make is called a thesis statement. A thesis statement is not the same as a topic. Your thesis statement explains what you believe to be the impact and significance of your topic in history. Example:

*Topic:* Battle of Gettysburg

*Thesis Statement:* The battle of Gettysburg was a major turning point of the Civil War. It turned the tide of the war from the South to the North, pushing back Lee's army that would never fight again on Northern soil and bringing confidence to the Union army.

#### Primary Sources

A primary source is a piece of information about a historical event or period in which the creator of the source was an actual participant in or a contemporary of a historical moment. The purpose of primary sources is to capture the words, the thoughts and the intentions of the past. Primary sources help you to interpret what happened and why it happened.

Examples of primary sources include: documents, artifacts, historic sites, songs, or other written and tangible items created during the historical period you are studying.

#### Secondary Sources

A secondary source is a source that was not created first-hand by someone who participated in the historical era. Secondary sources are usually created by historians, but based on the historian's reading of primary sources. Secondary sources are usually written decades, if not centuries, after the event occurred by people who did not live through or participate in the event or issue. The purpose of a secondary source is to help build the story of your research from multiple perspectives and to give your research historical context.

An example of a secondary source is *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* by James M. McPherson, published in 1988. They are a great starting point in helping you see the big picture. Understanding the context of your topic will help you make sense of the primary sources that you find.

The primary and secondary sources McPherson used are listed in the bibliography. Another researcher might consult these same primary sources and reach a different conclusion.

Use the document Analysis Worksheet found below for every source you find.

## Document Analysis Worksheet

Source:	Author:
Date:	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary Source or <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Source
Main idea of the document :	
Key phrases or data from document needed to answer the DBQ question:	
Analytical category:	
MLA Format:	

**Rule #5-** What kind of project are you going to do? <http://nhd.org/contest-affiliates/examples/>

Paper Examples

Exhibit Examples

Documentary Examples

Performance Examples

Website Examples

**Rule #6-** Preparing your project.

## Rule 12 | Title

Your entry must have a title that is clearly visible on all written materials.

### REQUIRED WRITTEN MATERIAL FOR ALL ENTRIES

## Rule 13 | Written Material

Your entry must include the following written material in the order presented below:

1. A title page as described in Rule 14;
2. A process paper as described in Rule 15 (process papers are not required for paper entries);
3. An 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.**

**Exhibit, performance and documentary categories** – you must provide three copies of these materials, bringing along an extra set for your own reference.

**Website category** – you must include these required materials within the site.

**Paper category** – You must include the title page and annotated bibliography with your paper.

## Rule 14 | 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), the contest division and category in which you are entered, and applicable word counts. Please see Figure 2 for examples of required elements for the paper, exhibit, performance, and documentary categories. Details of requirements for a website's home page can be found in Rule E3.

***NOTE:** The title page **must not** include any other information (pictures, graphics, borders, school name, or grade) except for that described in this rule.*

FIGURE 2 | SAMPLE TITLE PAGES

<p>Title</p> <p>Name Junior Division Historical Paper Paper Length: 2,234 words</p>	<p>Title</p> <p>Name Junior Division Group Exhibit Student-composed Words: 489 Process Paper: 410 words</p>	<p>Title</p> <p>Name Senior Division Individual Performance Process Paper: 425 words</p>	<p>Title</p> <p>Name Senior Division Individual Documentary Process Paper: 410 words</p>
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### Rule 15 | Process Paper

All categories, except historical paper, must include a process paper with the entry. It must describe in 500 or fewer words how you conducted your research and created your entry. The process paper must include four sections that explain:

1. how you chose your topic;
2. how you conducted your research;
3. how you selected your presentation category and created your project;  
and
4. how your project relates to the NHD theme.

You can view sample process papers at <http://www.nhd.org/CreatingEntry.htm>.

### Rule 16 | Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is required for all categories. List only those sources that contributed to the development of your entry, i.e., sources that provided usable information or new perspectives in preparing your entry. Sources of visual and audio materials and oral interviews must be included. Bundle photos or other materials from the same collection in a single citation. The annotations for each source must explain how you used the source and how it helped you understand your topic. Your annotated bibliography is not included in the word count.

<http://www.nhd.org/CreatingEntry.htm>