

(Insert School Name) History Day: Frequently Asked Questions

When is the History Day project due?

All projects are due on Wednesday, January 20.

How much of my student's quarter 3 grade will this project be worth?

The project will be worth roughly 1/3rd of your student's third quarter grade. Also, there may be other grades associated with research and planning before the final due date.

How much work will my student need to do on this project at home?

Most of this project will be done at home. Class time in the computer lab is limited and teachers are using that time to teach students specific research skills such as note taking, key word searches and how to use different research tools. Students will also need to construct and finalize their project outside of class.

How can I help my student find a topic that fits the theme?

Talk to your student about what he/she is interested in *Exploration, Encounter Exchange*. Remember that their topic does not need to cover all three areas of the theme. Not all topics will start with exploration – they may first be an encounter that leads to exploration or exchange. Check the NHD theme book for sample topics www.nhdca.org or check with your student's social studies teacher to see if they can help or have other resources.

We don't have a computer at home, what can we do?

Students who do not have access to a computer at home are encouraged to use the school **(insert Library/Media Center)** after school or go to a local library to conduct their research. Our school's **(insert Library/Media Center)** will host longer after-school computer lab hours in the final weeks of the project. Have your student notify their teacher so we can help

make arrangements.

My student wants to do a documentary but doesn't have a camera. Can we borrow one from the school?

No. Unfortunately, we do not have camera equipment that students can use for this project. If students decide to make a documentary, they must have the equipment and know how to use video editing software. If your student does not have experience making movies, we suggest doing another presentation category for this project

My student doesn't know how to start their research on their own. What can we do?

Your student will start research in class and will be given guidance on how to best research their project. If your student gets stuck at home, encourage him/her to make a list of questions that they have about their topic. Go through the list of questions and make sure it relates to the theme. Have your student then start finding the answers to their questions online. Keep track of the sites and sources you use so you can add them to your bibliography later. Research is all about developing questions and finding the answers. Also, encourage your student to talk to their social studies teacher.

How many sources must my student have in their annotated bibliography?

Students are required to use 5 primary sources and have at least 10 sources total to meet classroom requirements. This includes sources for images and research. However, students entering the NHD competition may need more than this to be competitive.

How many drafts of the annotated bibliography will my student be required to hand in?

This will vary by teacher but many will only require an annotated bibliography to be handed in once for grading before the final project is due. Students can request teacher feedback on bibliography format before the due date.

Is there a word limit for each of the project categories? If so, what are they?

Yes, we put a cap on how many words students use in their written work to help focus their ideas. Also, projects that go on to compete in the National History Day competition must adhere to contest guidelines.

Paper: no less than 1,500 words and no more than 2,500 words

Exhibit: 500-word limit to student written text (not including photo captions/headings).

Consult the NHD-CA Rulebook at www.nhdca.org for more information.

If my student decides to build a Web site, how many pages should it include?

The number of pages depends on your student's research findings. Good Web sites use multiple pages to organize their information. Students should create pages to highlight different sections of their research. They can even have a separate page for their annotated bibliography and process paper.

Do I have to pay for my student to register a Web site?

No. National History Day offers a free Web site editor that allows students with limited Web site experience to create their own Web site. Go to <http://nhd.weebly.com/> for more information or contact your students' social studies teacher.

If my student does a documentary or a performance how long must it be?

Documentaries and performances should be 10 minutes long.

What is the project plan/story board due on (insert Due Date)?

Teachers are asking students to outline their project so we can see how much they have completed and so we can give feedback on how the project is organized before the final deadline. The plan also helps students organize their ideas as they finalize their projects. Teachers will be giving instructions for how the plans should be structured.

How will I know if my student's project is selected for the (Insert School Name) History Day competition?

Only a few projects from each category are chosen to be showcased and be judged for (insert school name) History Day. Those students and their families will receive a written invitation the week before the event.

Your social studies teachers are available to help. Contact us with any questions.

(Insert Contact Information)