
II. Rules For All Categories

A. General Rules For All Categories

Rule 1: Annual Theme

Your entry must relate clearly to the annual theme and explain your topic's significance in history.

Rule 2: Contest Participation

You may participate in the research, preparation, and presentation of only one entry each year.

You may share research only with up to four other students who are fellow participants in your group entry. You may not create a common pool of research from which several entries are created.

Rule 3: Individual or Group Entries

A paper, individual exhibit, individual performance, individual web site, or individual documentary must be the work of only one student. A group exhibit, group performance, group web site, or group documentary must be the work of 2 to 5 students. All students in a group entry must be involved in the research and interpretation of the group's topic.

Rule 4: Development Requirements

Entries submitted for competition must be original and have been researched and developed in the current contest year. Revising or reusing an entry from a previous year—whether it is yours or

another student's—will result in disqualification. The year begins each June, following the national contest.

Rule 5: Construction of Entry

You are responsible for the research, design, and creation of your entry. You may receive help and advice from teachers and parents on the mechanical aspects of creating your entry.

1. You may have help typing your paper and other written materials.
2. You may seek guidance from your teachers as you research and analyze your material, but your conclusions must be your own.
3. You may have photographs and slides commercially developed.
4. You may have reasonable help cutting out your exhibit backboard or performance props (e.g., a parent uses a cutting tool to cut the board that you designed).

NOTE: Objects created by others specifically for use in your entry violate this rule. For example, a parent takes photographs or an artist draws the backdrop for your exhibit or performance. You may receive reasonable help in carrying and placing props and exhibits.

Rule 6: Contest Day Set-up

You are responsible for setting up your own exhibit, equipment, or props at the contest.



You may have reasonable help carrying them, but set-up must be completed by you (and your group members, if applicable) alone.

Rule 7: Supplying Equipment

You are responsible for supplying all props and equipment at each level of competition. All entries should be constructed keeping transportation, set-up time, size, and weight in mind (e.g., foam core v. solid oak for an exhibit; folding table v. antique desk for a performance). Students must provide their own equipment, including computers and software. Check with your contest coordinator about available resources; projection screens for documentaries and performances may be provided if requested. DVD players are available at the national contest for the documentary category only. Pianos and Internet access are not provided.

NOTE: Be prepared: bring extension cords if needed and check with your contest coordinator about the availability of equipment at all contest levels.

Rule 8: Discussion with Judges

You should be prepared to answer judges' questions about the content and development of your entry, but you may not give a formal, prepared introduction, narration, or conclusion. Let the

judges' questions guide the interview. Ultimately, your entry should be able to stand on its own without any additional comments from you.

You should be prepared to explain the design, research, and creation of your entry if questioned by the judges. Judges need to know that your entry is the result of your own work.

Rule 9: Costumes

You are not permitted to wear costumes that are related to the focus of your entry during judging, except in the performance category.

Rule 10: Prohibited Materials

Items potentially dangerous in any way—such as weapons, firearms, animals, organisms, plants, etc.—are strictly prohibited. Such items will be confiscated by security personnel or contest officials. Replicas of such items that are obviously not real are permissible. Please contact your teacher and contest coordinator to confirm guidelines before bringing the replica to a contest.

Rule 11: Title

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

B. Required Written Material For All Entries

Rule 12: Written Material

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

1. a title page as described in Rule 13;
2. a process paper as described in Rule 14 (process papers are not part of historical paper entries); and
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.

You must provide four copies of these materials, except in the historical paper and web site categories. Web site entries must include these required written materials within the site. The title page and annotated bibliography must accompany historical paper entries.

Rule 13: 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.

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

TITLE
STUDENT(S) NAME(S)
DIVISION
CATEGORY

(e.g. Individual/Group, Exhibit, Documentary, Performance, Web site)

Rule 14: Process Paper

All categories except historical paper must include a process paper with the entry. It must describe in 500 words or less 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 www.nhd.org on the "Creating an Entry" page in the Contest section.

Rule 15: Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is required for all categories. List only those sources that contributed to the development of your entry, sources that provided usable information or new perspectives in preparing your entry. You likely will include fewer sources than you actually used. Sources of visual materials and oral interviews must be included. The annotations for each source must explain how you used the source and how it helped you understand your topic. Annotations of web sites should describe who sponsors the site. For example:

Bates, Daisy. *The Long Shadow of Little Rock*. New York: David McKay Co. Inc., 1962.

Daisy Bates was the president of the Arkansas NAACP and the one who met and listened to the students each day. This firsthand account was very important to my paper because it made me more aware of the feelings of the people involved.

NOTE: 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.

Rule 16: The Separation of Primary and Secondary Sources

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

NOTE: Some sources may be considered as either primary or secondary. Use your annotations to explain your reasoning for classifying any sources that are not clearly primary or secondary. Listing a source under both primary and secondary is inappropriate.

Rule 17: Style Guides

Style for citations and bibliographic references must follow the principles in a recent edition of one of the following style guides.

1. Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*
2. Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*

Regardless of which manual you use, the style must be consistent throughout all written material.

Rule 18: Plagiarism

You must acknowledge in your annotated bibliography all sources used in your entry. Failure to credit sources is plagiarism and will result in disqualification.

C. Contest Participation

Rule 19: Entry Procedure

At each contest level you must register either online or by submitting paper entry forms (check with your contest coordinator for the format used at your regional and affiliate contests), meet specific deadlines, and follow any procedures established by that contest's coordinator.

Rule 20: Entries to National Competition

Each state is limited to two entries per contest category in the national contest. Ties at affiliate contests will be resolved at the affiliate level.

Rule 21: National Competition Attendance

Individual students and groups must be present for an entry to be judged at the national contest.