HANDOUT: SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR HISTORY DAY JUDGES

Begin by asking students an easy question. This will build his or her confidence. Some examples of “icebreaker” questions are:

- Why did you choose this topic?
- How your project relates to this year’s theme?
- Why did you select the exhibit/documentary/performance/website category?

Move on to more challenging questions. Students will analyze their topics and relate them to broader themes in history. Examples of higher-level questions are:

- What was your favorite primary source? Why?
- Did you find conflicting information in your sources? If so, how did you deal with this?
- Which research sources did you find the most valuable and why?
- How did your thesis change from the time that you started your project to now?
- How did you find primary sources? Did using primary sources change any opinions you had about your topic?
- How do you think your topic influenced history?
- If the student has a topic in a content area in which you are familiar, then ask appropriate questions.

End the interview with a question that allows the student to bring up any other information:

- Is there anything else you wanted to talk about that we haven’t asked you yet?

Judges are welcome to ask other relevant questions about the process or topic, which are not listed on this sheet!

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