The Interview

Each entry is assigned a specific time during which students will meet with and be interviewed by the judges. The judge team may question students about any aspect of their entry. Judges are provided with a list of sample questions, but may ask questions outside of the sample list. Possible questions include:

- What was a helpful source?
- How does this topic fit the theme?
- What was a challenging part of your History Day experience?
- How do you think your topic influenced history?
- Is there anything you would like to tell us that we haven’t asked about?

The interview portion of judging does not weigh heavily in final decision-making. All History Day entries are expected to be understood without the need for a student to explain or clarify the material presented. There are no interviews during Final-Round judging.

If a student needs accommodation for their interview or any part of State, please let us know through the online registration form or contact the State Coordinator directly: Samanatha.Papas@mnhs.org.

The Judging Process

Evaluating history is a subjective process, but National History Day has established criteria and methods to achieve fair decisions. Each judge will have a comment sheet, identical to those used at Regionals, for the entries they are judging. They are instructed to use these sheets to write positive, critical evaluations of each entry.

Ratings: All decisions are made by the consensus of the judging teams. In effect, History Day judging is a jury process, where the judges have to reach a shared conclusion, rather than a point system.

Please note: Ratings vary from one judging group to another. Each set of judges establishes their own standards for ratings. Ratings cannot be compared across different judging teams.

Selecting Finalists: After finishing the First-Round, judges will meet to discuss the entries they have reviewed. Performance, Documentary, Website, and Exhibit judges will select the top three entries in their First-Round judging group. These entries will then become part of a Final-Round judging process in the afternoon. Research Papers have already gone through preliminary judging through mail-in participation. Paper judges will determine the top five award-winners after interviews are complete.

Final-Round Judging

The Exhibit, Performance, Website, and Documentary categories will have a Final-Round of judging at State. A new set of judges will view the Final-Round entries and select award winners.

- Exhibit and Website: Students are NOT present for the Final-Round of judging. Exhibit and Website rooms are closed to the public during final judging. Exhibit students should double-check that at least two copies of their process paper and bibliography are in front of their Exhibit before the room closes. A list of the projects that have advanced to the Final-Round will be posted on the Minnesota History Day website at the times listed below. History Day will also post results in Coffman Memorial Union.

- Performance and Documentary: Students with Performance and Documentary entries will present their entries in the Final-Round, but will not be interviewed by judges. Performance and Documentary students selected for the Final-Round of judging should have two copies of their process paper and bibliography ready for this round of judging. Performance and Documentary rooms are open to the public during Final-Round judging. A list of the projects that have advanced to the Final-Round of judging will be posted on campus at the times listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Estimated Number of Final-Round Entries per Category/Division</th>
<th>Estimated Posting Time</th>
<th>Final-Round Judging Begins</th>
<th>Are students Present for the Final-Round?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Documentary</td>
<td>Junior 18; Senior 18</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>Junior 18; Senior 9</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit</td>
<td>Junior 30; Senior 18</td>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Junior 18; Senior 15</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advancing to Final-Round

The Final-Round judging process is shaped by the number of entries in each category:

**Senior Performances:** Senior Performances will have three First-Round judging teams in each category. The top three entries from each First-Round room advance to a single Final-Round room. These judges will view all of the finalists and select winners.

**Exhibit, Website, Documentary, and Junior Performances:** There will be at least four First-Round judging teams in each of these categories.

- The **top entry** in each First-Round room will advance to the primary finals judging room.
- The **second-place entry** in each First-Round judging room will advance to the second-place finals judging room. After evaluating these presentations the judges will select the top two entries in the second-place finals judging room to immediately advance to the primary finals judging room.
- The **third-place entries** in each First-Round judging room will advance to the third-place finals judging room. After evaluating these presentations the judges will select the top entry in the third-place finals judging room to immediately advance to the primary finals judging room.

---

**Performances and Documentaries: Pay Attention!**

In Performance and Documentary categories, the top entries in the second-place and third-place finals judging rooms will be required to present for a third time. The judges who make this decision will announce the entry that is moving on shortly after the final presentation in the second- and third-place finals rooms. Students should stay nearby to make sure that they do not miss this announcement. See the diagram below.

---

**Why are Final-Rounds Designed this Way?**

This system is designed to make sure that the top three entries in each First-Round judging room receive the opportunity to be reviewed in a Final-Round judging process. Participation in the second-place or third-place finals judging room run-off does not affect the judging in the primary room. Many entries have progressed to Nationals after advancing from the second- and third-place finals judging rooms.