

# RULES FOR ALL HISTORY DAY PROJECTS

The following rules apply to History Day projects in all categories. This is a summary from the [National History Day Contest Rule Book](#). **It is your responsibility to make sure your project follows all the History Day rules.** Please read the rulebook for more information!

## Project Creation

- I created my project this year. I have not reused any part of a previous project (mine or anyone else's).
- This is the only History Day project that I have created this year.
- This is a new topic. I have not done a History Day project on this topic before.
- I have credited the sources of all my information. I have not plagiarized.
- My topic connects to the History Day annual theme (*Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas*).
- I have researched, designed, and created the entry. The only help I got from other people was other group members or adults within reason (See NHD Rulebook).
- **Groups:** We all worked together on the project. All group members are listed with the project.

## Counting Words in History Day Projects

There are size limits for projects in all History Day categories. The limit is usually a combination of words and/or time. Limits keep projects to a manageable size. Pay attention to the way words are counted. You will have to count the words in your project and accurately include this information with your project.

### Required Written Materials (All Categories)

Item	Do the words count?	Explanation
Process paper	Yes	All the words in the process paper count toward the process paper's 500-word limit.
Title page and annotated bibliography	No	Words in the title page and annotated bibliography do not count.

### Categories: How to Count Words

Item	How many words?	Explanation
December 7, 1941	One	A date counts as one word.
365 or forty-eight	One	A number counts as one word.
A cow jumped over the moon.	Six	Words such as "a," "the," and "of" count as one word each.
John Quincy Adams	Three	Each word in a name is counted individually.
mid-September or up-to-date	One	A hyphenated word counts as one word.
Eighteenth-century politics	Two	A hyphen is needed in "eighteenth-century" because it is a compound adjective. By contrast, "in the eighteenth century" is four words.

**The category-specific rules have more information on what should be included in the total word count for your category.**

## Disqualification

Disqualification is when an entry is removed from competition. The contest coordinator is able to disqualify an entry for the following reasons related to academic integrity:

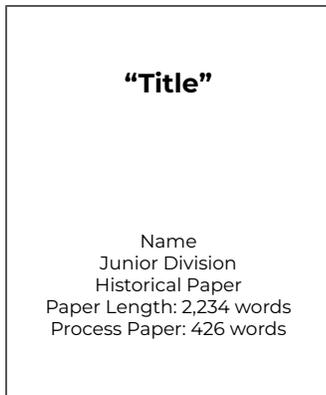
- Entering a project in multiple contests or entry categories within a contest year
- Reusing, individually or as a group, a project (or research from a project) from a previous year
- Plagiarizing
- Tampering with or removing any part of another entry during a competition

Rule infractions (such as going over the time, size, or word limit) may keep your entry from advancing. Rule infractions, however, are not grounds for disqualification from a competition.

# REQUIRED WRITTEN MATERIALS

You need supporting written documents in addition to your project itself. Judges will look at these materials when they review your entry. When assembling these materials, put them in the following order.

## Title Page



The title page includes:

- Entry title
- Student name(s)
- Division
- Category
- Word counts for project and process paper

## Process Paper

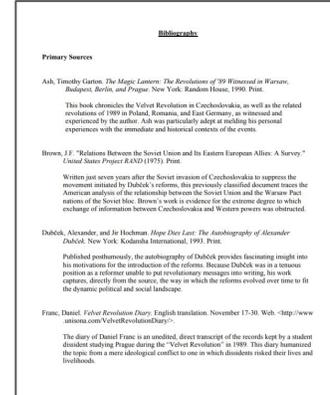


You will need one process paper for each entry. In a group, students will work together to create it. The process paper should be 500 words or fewer. It should not have quotes, images, or captions.

You can write your process paper as an essay, or question-and-answer format. You will discuss:

- How did you choose your topic and how does it relate to the annual theme?
- How did you conduct your research?
- How did you create your project?
- What is your historical argument (thesis)?
- In what ways is your topic significant in history?

## Annotated Bibliography



Your bibliography should list all the sources you used to develop your project. Your citations should be either in MLA or Turabian format. Divide your bibliography into at least two sections - primary and secondary sources.

Each citation should have an annotation. Each annotation should be no longer than 2-3 sentences. The annotation should explain:

- How you used the source
- How the source helped you to understand the topic

## Preparing Your Written Materials

The way you will prepare these materials will differ based on the type of competition in which you are participating.

In-Person Contest	Virtual Contest
<p>Follow the contest coordinator's instructions carefully. In general, you will need to <b>print your materials in advance</b>. Bring the required number of copies with you to the event <i>already printed</i>.</p> <p><b>Format:</b> 1-inch margins and 12 point font.</p> <p><b>Print:</b> Use plain, white 8.5 x 11 paper. You can print single or double-sided. Staple materials in upper-lefthand corner. DO NOT put these materials in a binder or folder.</p> <p><b>Website</b> students will upload these materials to the website itself. You do not need to bring additional copies of these materials to the event.</p>	<p>Follow the contest coordinator's instructions carefully. In general, you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use 1-inch margins and 12 point font</li> <li>• Combine into one file</li> <li>• Make sure they are in the following order:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Title Page</li> <li>○ Process Paper</li> <li>○ Annotated Bibliography</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Save the file as a PDF</li> <li>• Rename your PDF file to include you (and any group members') names</li> </ul> <p><b>Website</b> students will upload these materials to the website itself.</p>

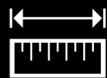
# RULES: EXHIBIT

The following rules apply to History Day projects in the Exhibit category. This is a summary of the [National History Day Contest Rule Book](#). **It is your responsibility to make sure your project follows all the History Day rules.** Read the rulebook for more information!



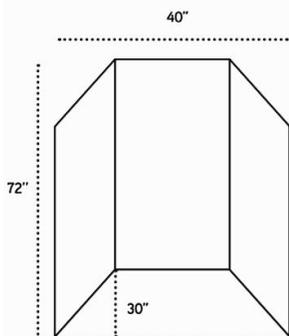
## Exhibit is an original creation

Your Exhibit is a reflection of **your** analysis and research. You may receive reasonable help from others, but you must be the sole author. All the information you use from others must be attributed and cited. Failure to do so is plagiarism.



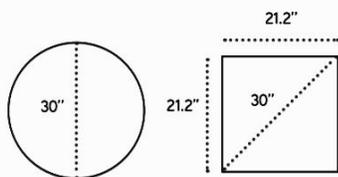
## No larger than 40" wide, 30" deep, 72" high

Exhibits are measured as you set them up at a contest. Measurement does not include the table the Exhibit is resting on. If you create a base or provide a table cloth, that will be included in the measurement. You cannot provide any supplemental materials for judges to take away (candy, buttons, etc.).



**Left:** Trifold-style exhibits can be no larger than 40 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 72 inches high.

**Right:** Circular or projects meant to be viewed from all sides can be no more than 30 inches in diameter or diagonal.



## If used, media in an Exhibit is less than two minutes total

Primary source audio and video are the best choices for media. This evidence should directly connect to and support your analysis. You should not have student narration in the media.

- Audio or video in your Exhibit is optional.
- Total media can be no longer than two minutes. Media should not loop continuously.
- Students must provide technology.
- Judges must be able to start/stop the media and control the volume.
- Media players must fit within the size limit of the Exhibit.



## Student interpretation is clear in the Exhibit itself

Your analysis must be clear in the Exhibit itself.

- Do not rely on your interview to explain your ideas.
- Your argument must be supported with, but not overwhelmed by, visual and textual evidence, such as quotes.
- Rely on your own analysis, primary sources, and visuals to tell your story.



## No more than 500 student-composed words

The Exhibit word limit applies to all words you write.

Counts to Limit	Does Not Count
Text that you write, like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informational text</li> <li>• Titles</li> <li>• Subtitles</li> <li>• Captions</li> <li>• Graphs</li> <li>• Timelines</li> <li>• Your narration/words in media devices, or supplemental materials (e.g., photo albums, scrapbooks)</li> </ul>	Text that you didn't write, like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary or secondary materials or quotes included on your Exhibit</li> <li>• Primary or secondary materials or quotes in media or supplemental materials</li> </ul> Required source credits (see below)



## Source credits are on the Exhibit for all quotes and visual sources

All quotes and visual sources (e.g., photographs, paintings, charts, graphs) must be credited on the Exhibit and cited in your annotated bibliography.

- Source credits are brief - not the full bibliographic citation.
- A credit usually includes the title/name, date, and source.
- Your source credits do not count toward the word limit.
- Additional descriptive or analytical text in a caption will count towards a word limit.



## Process paper and annotated bibliography with Exhibit

The general NHD rules require a process paper and annotated bibliography with each project. Follow your contest coordinators instructions on how to submit these for either virtual or in-person contests.