

JUDGING CRITERIA

HISTORICAL QUALITY

- Entry is historically accurate: Assess whether, to the best of your knowledge, the information presented on the poster is historically accurate. For examples, if a student completes a poster related to events during WWI, they should not identify Hitler as the leader of Germany.
- Shows analysis and interpretation: The student should make some sort of claim in their thesis and support it with evidence, just as they would formulate a hypothesis and support it with data in a science experiment. Their project should NOT be a biography detailing the life of a famous person or a book report detailing events.
- Places topic in context: Students should understand what other events/people/ideas led up to, followed, and occurred contemporaneously with their topic of interest.
- Shows variety in sources: Students should use at least one other source format other than text. For example, maps, pictures, artifacts, etc.
- Uses at least two primary sources: At least two of the student's five sources should be primary in nature. However, they are encouraged to utilize more.
- Research shows perspective: Students should briefly address other perspectives. For example, a project about Molly Brown's activist work in Denver should recognize/mention that not everyone regarded Brown's activities as appropriate for a woman.

RELATION TO THEME

- Clearly relates topic to theme: Students should very clearly relate their topic to the theme and use key words from the theme in their thesis statement. For example: Lon Chaney **took a stand** for the rights of the deaf and blind to be educated by founding a school for the deaf and blind in Colorado.
- Demonstrates significance and draws conclusions: Students posters should answer the question, "So what?" Why does their topic matter in history? What conclusions can they draw about their topic from their evidence?

CLARITY OF POSTER

- Written material is original, clear, appropriate, and organized: The text on the student's poster should be free of any major spelling and grammar errors, organized, and their own work. Students should be aware of what plagiarism is, and that it is not acceptable in such a project.
- Poster has visual impact: Student posters should be neat and organized visually. The viewer should be able to quickly find and identify major parts of the project such as the thesis, conclusion, etc.