

		4- Superior	3- Excellent	2- Good	1- Needs Improvement
Historical Quality (60%)	Historically accurate	Main ideas are supported by facts, which are consistently supported by strong evidence (primary sources). Entry contains no obviously inaccurate information.	Main ideas are supported by facts, which are generally supported by strong evidence (primary sources). Entry contains no obviously inaccurate information.	Entry would be improved with more evidence. Entry contains little obviously inaccurate historical information.	Entry raises questions about the accuracy of facts, or facts seem correct, but are supported by little or no evidence.
	Shows analysis & interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an obvious thesis statement Evidence supports thesis statement 	Entry has a clear and concise thesis (argument or claim). The thesis is supported by thoughtful analysis and interpretation, which acknowledges strengths and weaknesses of the historical evidence.	Entry has a mostly clear and concise thesis (argument or claim). The thesis is mostly supported by thoughtful analysis and interpretation, but could be improved with more extensive acknowledgment of the strengths and weaknesses of the historical evidence.	The thesis is not clearly stated. Entry includes more description than analysis and interpretation.	Entry has no clear thesis and only describes people or events without analysis or interpretation.
	Places topic in historical context, explains background, & short-term & long-term impacts	Entry includes accurate and appropriate references to the time period by specifying the political, economic, social, and cultural influences (events, ideas, people, places, and objects). Entry shows historical perspective, the causes and consequences of an event, and the relationship of a local topic to larger trends or events.	Entry includes accurate and appropriate references to the time period, but may only specify some of the pertinent political, economic, social, and cultural influences. Entry may show historical perspective, the causes and consequences of an event, or the relationship of a local topic to larger trends or events, but fails to address all of these.	Entry only refers to the time period, and may mention surrounding events, ideas, people, and objects, but does not demonstrate how they illustrate the political, economic, social, and cultural influences of the time. The causes and consequences of the topic, or the relation of a local topic to a larger trend are not fully developed.	Entry refers to the time period in non-specific ways. Entry is only descriptive and does not analyze the topic's causes and consequences.
	Shows wide research (books, newspapers, websites, archives, interviews, etc.)	Varied sources (primary and secondary) are used to advance the entry's thesis and analysis. Interpretation and conclusions are based on solid research.	Varied sources are used, and mostly advance the entry's thesis or analysis. Entry could be improved with more solid interpretation and conclusions.	Some variety of sources (primary and secondary) is used, but interpretation and conclusions could be enriched by more and a wider variety of sources.	The sources are not diverse (they may be mostly secondary), and their relation to the thesis is not clear.
	Uses <i>available</i> primary sources (sources from the time of the actual event)	Entry thoroughly examines the various types and varieties of primary sources available from the time.	Uses many primary sources, but may focus on a particular type of source, while leaving out others.	Uses some of the available primary sources, but obviously leaves out important and accessible sources.	Uses few of the available primary sources, or has selected a topic where sufficient primary source evidence is not available/accessible.
	Research is balanced (shows more than one perspective)	Entry adequately uses sources (both primary and secondary) to address and analyze all of the relevant perspectives and points of view.	Entry generally uses sources (both primary and secondary) to address most of the relevant perspectives., but could be improved by more thoroughly analyzing those points of view.	Entry only addresses one perspective or point of view, and may or may not incorporate analysis regarding that perspective or point of view.	Entry mentions a single perspective or point of view, but fails to analyze it.
Relation to Theme (20%)	Clearly relates topic to theme (this should be obvious in the thesis)	Entry clearly addresses the theme in their thesis and conclusion, and develops the theme with their primary source evidence throughout the entirety of their project.	Entry addresses the theme in the thesis and conclusions, and develops the theme with their primary sources through some of their project.	Entry addresses the theme in their thesis and conclusion, but not clearly and explicitly. Theme is developed minimally throughout their project.	Entry does not clearly address the theme anywhere in the project.
	Demonstrates <i>significance of topic in history</i> & draws conclusions	Entry clearly states the importance of their topic in history and supports their claims with primary source evidence. Short- and long-term impacts draw conclusions about the importance of the event.	Entry states the importance of the topic in history, and sometimes supports their claims with evidence. May draw some short- and long-term impacts.	Entry does not clearly state the importance of their topic in history, and rarely supports their claims with evidence. Entry draws few impacts.	Entry does not demonstrate the importance of their topic or draw impacts.
Clarity of Presentation (20%)	Written material original, clear, appropriate, organized, articulate	Entry is well organized and logical. The sections and main points are easy to discern. The entry is best presented as an historical paper.	Entry is generally organized and logical, and may contain only minor organizational errors. The sections and main points are generally easy to discern, but could be more clear. The entry is appropriate for the paper category.	Entry text is understandable, but could be better organized (the sections and main points vary in clarity).	Entry presents information clearly in most cases and shows evidence of organization, but sections and main points are difficult to discern.
	Text is clear, with correct grammar and spelling. Entry is nearly prepared.	Citations are used properly. The text is clear, grammatical, correctly spelled, and neatly presented.	Citations are generally used properly. The text has few grammar and spelling errors, and is nearly presented.	Entry text is, with some exceptions, clear. There are some grammar and spelling errors. There may be some inconsistency in citations.	The text's clarity, neatness, grammar, spelling, and the format of some citations could be improved.
Rules Compliance*	1500-2500 Word Limit Annotated Bibliography	YES YES	NO NO		

*Note: Rules violations do not disqualify the project but may affect the ranking. The only disqualifiable offenses are plagiarism, reusing a project, and tampering with another project.

PAPER

HIGH SCHOOL

		4- Superior	3- Excellent	2- Good	1- Needs Improvement
Historical Quality (60%)	Historically accurate				
	Shows analysis & interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an obvious thesis statement • Evidence supports thesis statement 				
	Places topic in historical context, explains background, & short-term & long-term impacts				
	Shows wide research (books, newspapers, websites, archives, interviews, etc.)				
	Uses <i>available</i> primary sources (sources from the time of the actual event)				
	Research is balanced (shows more than one perspective)				
Relation to Theme (20%)	Clearly relates topic to theme (this should be obvious in the thesis)				
	Demonstrates <i>significance of topic in history & draws conclusions</i>				
Clarity of Presentation (20%)	Written material original, clear, appropriate, organized, articulate				
	Text is clear, with correct grammar and spelling. Entry is neatly prepared				
Rules Compliance*	1500-2500 Word Limit	YES	NO		
	Annotated Bibliography	YES	NO		

*Note: Rules violations do not disqualify the project but may affect the ranking. The only disqualifiable offenses are plagiarism and reusing a project

Rules Summary

- Individual only.
- 1,500-2,500 words.
- Must include annotated bibliography (does not count towards the word limit).
- No process paper required.
- Appendix material (i.e. images, graphs, charts, etc.) need to be referenced in-text.
- Printed on plain, white 8.5 x 11 paper.
- Typed, double-spaced, 10-12 point font with 1 inch margins with numbered pages.
- Print on only one side of a page.
- Staple in left hand corner. Do not put paper in binder or folder
- **Simple** title page with title of the project, student name, student division and category, and total number of words in the paper entry. Do NOT include illustrations, school name, teacher name, or region.
- Mail six copies for each contest (Note: some contests require emailing the paper file. Check with your coordinator to see if this applies to you).