



TOP JUDGING TIPS

Judging can seem overwhelming. Don't worry. **You do not need to be an expert on the students' topics to judge.** You just need to be familiar with judging procedures and the evaluation form. You will use the same evaluation forms that are used at the regional, state and national contests. It is important that you provide consistent and constructive comments on the judging forms.

1. Review the Judge Evaluation Form & theme (Rights & Responsibilities in History).

HISTORICAL QUALITY accounts for 60% - This is the meat of the project.

2. Projects should be **HISTORICALLY ACCURATE** (to the best of your knowledge.) If you are an expert, please don't lecture the kids on what you know. Instead, let them share what they know.
3. Shows **ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION**: Every project should have the **elements of a persuasive essay**:
 - thesis statement
 - evidence to support the thesis and analysis of that evidence
4. **PLACES TOPIC IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT**:
 - background & context (introduction)
 - short-term impact
 - long-term impact (conclusion)
5. **WIDE RESEARCH**: Did the student use different types of sources (websites, books, newspapers, etc.)?
6. **AVAILABLE PRIMARY SOURCES**: Did the student use primary sources effectively? (Primary sources were produced at the time. Secondary were after-the-fact & have historical perspective.)
7. **BALANCED RESEARCH**: Did the student show more than one perspective?

RELATION TO THEME accounts for 20%

8. Every project must have a strong and obvious **CONNECTION TO THE THEME: Rights & Responsibilities in History**. They do NOT have to connect to both "rights" and "responsibilities." One is enough, but the connection must be strong.
9. **DEMONSTRATES SIGNIFICANCE OF TOPIC IN HISTORY & DRAWS CONCLUSIONS**: (thesis statement must clearly relate to the theme, the evidence must demonstrate that and show the short-term and long-term consequences.)

CLARITY OF PRESENTATION accounts for 20%

10. Is the project creative and organized?
11. Look for typos, grammatical and capitalization errors and spelling.

RULES COMPLIANCE (See back for rules summary)

12. Rules violations (like going over the time or word limit) do not disqualify a project, but should impact the ranking.
13. **Disqualification** will result in 2 situations: **Plagiarism and reusing a project from a previous year.**
14. Students must have a **formatted annotated bibliography**. Primary and secondary sources must be separated. Annotations demonstrate what the student learned from the source.
15. Students must have **proper citations**.
16. Students must have a **Process Paper** describing their project development process. (Paper category does NOT require.)

BE SPECIFIC TO BE TERRIFIC!

17. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE make **constructive comments on the evaluations**.
 - Kids will review the forms and revise their projects accordingly (especially those students who move on to the next contest level.)
 - **Be positive and encouraging** while providing constructive advice for improvement.
 - If the project needs improvement, tell them exactly what needs to be improved. Don't be vague.
 - Make sure your marks and comments accurately reflect the work. For example, a kid who receives all "superior" marks and no comments about improvement will expect to advance to the regional contest. If he/she doesn't advance, the evaluation should reflect why.
 - Don't discuss the projects in front of the kids and parents.

PROJECT RANKINGS

18. Judging teams will rank projects, so take all of the above into consideration.
 - The Process Paper, Bibliography and interview can help you when ranking near-equal projects.



Rules Summary

Exhibit Rules

- Size Requirements: No larger than 40 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 6 feet high (measurements from furthest edges).
- Circular or rotating exhibits must be no more than 30 inches in diameter.
- 500 word limit applies to student generated words—Image or quote credits do not apply to the limit.
- Media devices can run for three minutes—Judges must be able to control.
- Materials presented in the media device are included in the word count.
- Requires a process paper and an annotated bibliography (six copies for each contest).
- Student should not dress up “in character” for the interview.
- Quotations and other primary source materials do not count towards the word limit
- Dates count as one word (i.e. June 6, 1944 counts as one word).
- Timelines must be cited, unless they are generated by the student.

Performance Rules

- Time Requirements: 10 minutes or less. At the contest students get 5 minutes for set-up and 5 minutes for removal.
- Introductions include title of the entry and the name(s) of the participant(s).
- Props and sets must be set-up and managed by students; no parent or teacher interference.
- Costumes and props must be appropriate to the topic
- Requires a process paper and an annotated bibliography (six copies for each contest).

Documentary Rules

- Time Requirements: 10 minutes or less. At the contest students get 5 minutes for set-up and 5 minutes for removal.
- Introductions include title of the entry and the name(s) of the participant(s).
- Equipment should be student-run.
- Students must conduct all narration, voice-over, and dramatization.
- Images, music, video clips, etc. must be given credit at the end of the presentation and in the annotated bibliography.
- Brief credits at the end.
- Requires a process paper and an annotated bibliography (six copies for each contest).

Website Rules

- Must be constructed on NHD’s Weebly site (nhd.weebly.com).
- 1,200 student composed words or less.
- Must have a home page that lists the project title, student name(s) and division.
- 100 MB size limit (Weebly will prevent students from adding content beyond 100 MB).
- All content must be on the site—No outside links.
- Process paper and annotated bibliography must appear on the site.

Paper Rules

- Individual only.
- 1,500-2,500 words.
- Must include annotated bibliography (does not count towards the word limit).
- No process paper required.
- Appendix materials (i.e. images, graphs, charts, etc.) need to be referenced in-text.
- Printed on plain, white 8.5 x 11 white 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 a left hand corner
- **Simple** title page with title of the project, student name, student division and category. Do NOT include illustrations, school name, teacher name or region.