

All About Historical Papers

Historical Papers are the traditional form of presenting written historical arguments.



- ❖ Judges should expect a well-written and logically organized research paper that uses evidence to support the historical argument.
- ❖ Appendices are optional. These materials should be relevant to the paper and should not include a large body of supplemental material.
- ❖ Paper writers should draw conclusions that reflect their ideas rather than only repeating historians' conclusions.

Paper Specific Rules

- *Between 1,500 and 2,500 total words.*
 - ◆ About 10 double-spaced pages.
 - ◆ Does not include footnotes/endnotes or appendix material.
- *Citations are required.*
 - ◆ Students may choose either footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations.
- Historical fiction and creative writing are permitted, but must include historical argument and research/evidence to support the argument.

Major rule infractions that give a project an unfair advantage must be noted on the score sheet and may prevent a project from moving forward in the competition. **If your top ranked entries have a major rules infraction, contact your judge captain.**

- More than 25 words over the 2500 word limit
- Missing bibliography

Minor rule infractions should not impact a project's rank and are noted in comments. These include:

- Missing Process Paper; incorrectly formatted title page
- Inconsistent or incorrect citation formatting
- Missing annotations
- Fewer than 1,500 words

Process Paper & Annotated Bibliography

Students are also required to submit a **Process Paper and Annotated Bibliography** as part of their project. Judges will evaluate these documents along with the paper.

Process Paper - Addresses the process of creating the project while answering these questions:

- ❖ 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?
- ❖ In what ways is your topic significant in history?



Annotated Bibliography - Documents the research students used to create the project and form their analysis.

- ❖ It should be separated by primary and secondary sources.
- ❖ All sources must include a 3 sentence (maximum) annotation describing the source and how it was used.
- ❖ It should follow either MLA or Chicago/Turabian formatting.

Judging Papers in a Virtual Contest

Judges will view Papers using their computer's browser. All papers were submitted as a PDF and include a title page, process paper and annotated bibliography.

Best Practices for Viewing Virtual Exhibits

- Download the PDF that includes the Process Paper, Annotated Bibliography, and Paper.
- Read the paper work and the paper.

Answers to Common Issues:

- If your link is broken or to the wrong project, contact your judge captain.
- If the Paper is hard to view, download the PDF to your computer

Evaluating/Scoring with the Rubric

The NHD-CA rubric provides judges with clear criteria and descriptors for scoring. You should select the descriptor that best matches the project you are assessing (use the dropdown arrow to the right of each row next to the rubric).



Best Practices:

- Carefully select the best descriptor for each project.
 - ◆ This will likely vary across the columns
- Be mindful of bias.
- Focus on scoring, not ranking.

What to do when judges' scores do not align:

- Discuss how and why you scored specific elements
 - ◆ Check for bias and consistency
 - ◆ Look for evidence within the project or research to support scores.
- Adjust scores to provide cohesive and balanced rubrics to the students

Historical Quality is 80%!

It is imperative that judges focus on the Historical Quality criteria on the rubric when judging. Technical elements comprise 20% of the total evaluation. All judges must attend a training on evaluating Historical Quality.

Paper Clarity of Presentation - 20%

Clarity of Presentation allows judges to address the technical elements of project creation.

CLARITY OF PRESENTATION - 20%	WRITTEN MATERIAL	Written material is appropriate to the topic and easily understood; Provides clear, concise, articulate text that does not contain grammatical or mechanical errors	Written material is appropriate to the topic and can be mostly understood; Text contains minor grammatical or mechanical errors	Written material is appropriate to the topic but is difficult to understand; Text contains several grammatical or mechanical errors	Written material is not appropriate to the topic or not understandable; Text contains major grammatical or mechanical errors that impede understanding	
	TECHNICAL	Contains citations in an NHD-approved format to consistently and correctly credit quotations and paraphrased information	Contains citations in an NHD-approved format to credit quotations and paraphrased information	Contains citations in some format to credit quotations and paraphrased information	Does not include citations to credit quotations and paraphrased information	