



ILLINOIS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION AGENCY

STUDENT
HISTORIAN
PROGRAM

ILLINOIS
HISTORY
FAIR

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE BEGIN WITH THE PAST.

E D U C A T I O N S E R V I C E S

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

**ILLINOIS
HISTORY EXPO
CONTEST RULES**

ILLINOIS HISTORY EXPOSITION CONTEST RULES

General Contest Rules for All Categories

Rule #1 Teachers must pre-register their students by completing and returning the enclosed pre-registration form. All registration information, such as category and National History Day status, will remain the same for both the regional competition and the Illinois History Expo. A one-time registration covers both the regional fair and Expo.

Rule #2 All contestants must be in Grades 6–12. Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 must enter the Junior Division. Students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 must enter the Senior Division.

Rule #3 Students are limited to one entry per category.

Rule #4 A paper, individual exhibit, individual performance, and individual media presentation must be the work of one (1) student. A group exhibit, group performance, and group media presentation must be the work of two (2) to five (5) students.

Rule #5 A bibliography is required for all entries in both divisions. Students should refer to a standard bibliographic form such as MLA or Turabian.

Rule #6 All non-paper entries must be accompanied by a Summary Statement Form.

Rule #7 All entries must show student research on some phase of local or state history. All entries must be student-produced and student-constructed.

Rule #8 VCRs, DVDs and monitors will be provided. Any additional equipment that is required must be provided by the student.

Rule #9 Any sound used with a project must be kept to a level that does not distract any judge from evaluating other projects.

Rule #10 Entry cards are NOT REQUIRED at the Illinois History Expo and will be removed prior to judging.

Rule #11 NATIONAL HISTORY DAY REQUIREMENTS

A panel of upstate and downstate coordinators with NHD experience will select those advancing to NHD from those who are registered to compete. Be sure to check with the National History Day (NHD) Contest Guide to be certain of all the requirements for NHD. Compliance with NHD requirements is the responsibility of the teacher.

Copies of the NHD Contest Guide are available on the National History Day website www.nhd.org.

Students who want their exhibit, performance, media entry, or research paper to be considered for NHD must incorporate the current theme for NHD and include an annotated bibliography.

Students must indicate that they are eligible for NHD consideration when they register for the regional history fair. Students cannot register for NHD after the regional history fair.

Rule #12 A Summary Statement Form must accompany all projects at the Regional and Illinois History Expo. The Summary Statement Form must address the following:

1. Explain the main theme of your entry.
2. Explain why you became interested in researching your subject. What is your favorite part of the project?
3. Explain the stages involved in creating your entry.
4. How much time did you spend working and researching your entry?
5. What did you learn from your research? Did you find any conflicting information about your topic while you were researching? If so, please explain.
6. Explain the project's relationship to Illinois History.
7. Attach a bibliography of the sources you used. Include any oral history interviews. Also list any libraries, museums, or other institutions you may have visited for you project.
8. What is the relationship between your Illinois History Expo entry and the theme of National History Day?

Note: National History Day (NHD) has separate requirements. The Summary Statement Form is not to be used in the place of NHD requirements

Rule #13 Securing the summary statement form and any other property (i.e. props, artifacts, etc.) are the student's responsibility.

Rule #14 Teachers must select which projects to advance to the regional history fairs. The projects should best represent their school's efforts. Teachers are encouraged/required to hold a school history fair to determine which projects are best.

Rule #15 A certain percentage of Superior projects will advance from each regional history fair to the Illinois History Expo. The Student Historian Program Coordinator of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency will determine this number. All projects receiving a superior will not necessarily advance to the Illinois History Exposition.

Research Papers

Rule #1 The text of a Junior Division or Senior Division research paper should be no less than 1,500 words and no more than 2,500 words. The same guidelines apply for National History Day entries.

Rule #2 Papers must have a cover sheet including the following information: Title, Student Name, School, Teacher, Grade, and NHD status (indicate whether project is competing for NHD).

Rule #3 Research papers must begin with a single, separate sheet including a Thesis Statement and an Outline.

The Thesis Statement should be a paragraph of two to three sentences declaring what question(s) you hope to answer in the paper and what answer(s) you gave to the question(s).

The Outline should contain no more than five headings. Each should deal with a step leading to your conclusion(s).

Rule #4 All research papers must contain an annotated bibliography. Students are encouraged to follow the style found in Turabian's *A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers* or in any standard form. Lack of a bibliography will result in automatic disqualification.

Rule #5 An annotated bibliography is distinguished from other bibliographic forms by a brief (often one sentence) explanation of how the source was especially distinctive and useful for the topic on which you have written. It should take the following form:
Stang, Richard. *The Theory of the Novel in England, 1850–1870*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1959. A systematic, impressive study uncovering "modern" doctrines about fiction in forgotten publications before James.

Rule #6 Papers must have footnotes or endnotes. Specific information on footnote form is available in Turabian's *A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers*. Any other standard footnote form is acceptable.

NOTE: The page numbers used must be given in the footnote citation; if reference material came from a vertical file where no page numbers were available, please note that no page numbers were given.

Rule #7 Papers can be about the student's own community, region, or the state as a whole.

Rule #8 Papers must be written by only one student, and he/she may submit only one paper.

Rule #9 To aid the local judges, papers should be typed and double-spaced.

Individual and Group Exhibits

Rule #1 All exhibits must be constructed by the individual/students.

NOTE: *The point of research and planning in the exhibit category is to condense and synthesize the topic into a visual presentation that is self-explanatory.*

Rule #2 An exhibit may contain additional written material, but it must take the form of captions and/or labels, documents, oral history, quotations, etc.

Rule #3 A group may range from two (2) to five (5) students.

Rule #4 Exhibit entries should be no more than 40" wide, 30" deep, and 6' high. Any project that does not comply with these sizes cannot receive a "Superior."

Rule #5 An exhibit must have a bibliography. Students should refer to Turabian's *A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers*, or any other standard form to determine the correct bibliographic form.

Rule #6 Exhibits must be visual and stationary. The use of media devices, such as tape recorders or slide presentations, must be integral and functional to the project and must not run for more than three (3) minutes. Judges must be able to operate all media devices.

NOTE: Projects using media devices that run for more than three (3) minutes will not qualify for a "Superior" rating.

Rule #7 Students are not allowed to submit a project from a previous fair, nor may they resubmit another student's project.

Rule #8 All exhibits must be in place before 10:30 a.m. on the day of the Expo.

Individual and Group Performance Rules

Rule #1 Students will be allowed five (5) minutes to set up, ten (10) minutes to perform, and five (5) minutes to remove any props after the performance is over.

Rule #2 Performances that exceed the time limits in Rule #1 will not be eligible to receive a "Superior" rating.

Rule #3 A group may range from two (2) to five (5) students.

Rule #4 Students must supply their own equipment and props.

Rule #5 Use of computers or other media devices as accompaniment or a supplement to the live performance is permitted. Supplemental visual material must be integral to the performance and is the responsibility of the student.

Rule #6 Performances must have a bibliography. Students should refer to Turabian's *A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers*, or any other standard form, to determine the correct bibliographic form.

Rule #7 A "Summary Statement Form" must be submitted to the judges prior to performance.

Rule #8 Performances must be the creation of the contestants. Additional recorded music, photographs, slides, etc., must be fully credited within the bibliography.

Rule #9 Contestants will be assigned a time for their performance. Performances are open to the public.

Rule #10 Contestants should be available in the contest area twenty (20) minutes prior to their performance.

Individual and Group Media Presentation Rules

Rule #1 A maximum of five (5) minutes is given to set up, a maximum of ten (10) minutes for the presentation, and a maximum of five (5) minutes is given to take down the media.

Rule #2 Media that exceed the time limits in Rule #1 will not be eligible to receive a "Superior" rating.

Rule #3 Contestants may be present for the entire 20-minute media presentation. Please be prepared to answer any questions the judges may have. However, formal narratives will not be accepted.

Rule #4 Contestants will be assigned a time for their media presentation. Media presentations are not open to the public.

Rule #5 Media presentations include videotape presentations, slide or slide-tape presentations, or an original computer program, etc.

Rule #6 Media must have a bibliography. Students should refer to Turabian's *A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers*, or any other standard form, to determine the correct bibliographic form.

Rule #7 Professional photographs, slides, recorded music, etc., may be used, but such items must be integrated into the presentation by the student producers. Such items must be fully credited within the bibliography and are the responsibility of the student. Students must narrate all audio portions except, for example, when using an oral history excerpt.

Rule #8 Added exhibits of visual material are not allowed.

Rule #9 Live involvement by students is limited to the running/operation of media devices/equipment. Judges must be able to control all media devices if students are not present to do so.

Rule #10 All media presentations must be accompanied by a "Summary Statement Form."

Rule #11 Computers, DVDs and monitors will be provided. Any additional equipment that is required must be provided by the student.

Rule #12 A group may range from two (2) to five (5) students.

Rule #13 Media results will be available for the teacher or student immediately after the Illinois History Expo closing ceremony.

Web Site

The web site category is the most interactive of all NHD categories. Therefore, a web site should reflect your ability to use web-site-design software and computer technology to communicate the topic's significance in history. Your historical web site should be a collection of web pages, interconnected by hyperlinks, that presents primary and secondary sources, interactive multimedia, and historical analysis. It should incorporate textual and non-textual (photographs, maps, music, etc.) descriptions, interpretations, and sources to engage and inform viewers. To construct a web site project, you must be able to operate and have access to the Internet, appropriate software, and equipment.

Rule 1. Entry Production

All entries must be original productions constructed using the NHD web site editor beginning at the school level. You may use professional photographs, graphics, video, recorded music, etc., within the site. Such items must be integrated into the web site, and proper credit must be given within the site as well as in the annotated bibliography. You must operate all software and equipment in the development of the web site.

Note: Using objects created by others for specific use in your entry violates this rule. For example, using a graphic that others produced at your request is not permitted; however, using graphics, multimedia clips, etc., that already exist is acceptable.

Rule 2: Size Requirements

Web site entries may contain no more than 1,200 visible, student-composed words. Code used to build the site and alternate text tags on images do not count toward the word limit. Also excluded are: words found in materials used for identifying illustrations or used to briefly credit the sources of illustrations and quotations; recurring menus, titles, and navigation instructions; words within primary documents and artifacts; and the annotated bibliography and process paper that must be integrated into the site. The entire site, including all multimedia, may use no more than 100MB of file space.

Rule 3: Navigation

One page of the web site must serve as the “home page.” The home page must include the names of the participants, entry title, division, and the main menu that directs viewers to the various sections of the site. All pages must be interconnected with hypertext links. Automatic redirects are not permitted.

Rule 4: Multimedia

Each multimedia clip may last no more than 45 seconds. You may record quotes and primary source materials for dramatic effect, but you may not narrate your own compositions or other explanatory material. All multimedia must be stored within the site; you may not use embedded material hosted elsewhere (e.g., YouTube, Google Video). There is no limit to the number of multimedia clips you may use, but you must respect the file size limit. If you use any multimedia that requires a specific software to view (e.g., Flash, QuickTime, Real Player), you must provide on the same page a link to an Internet site where the software is available as a free, secure, and legal download. Judges will make every effort to view all multimedia content, but files that cannot be viewed cannot be evaluated as part of the entry.

Rule 5: Required Written Materials

The annotated bibliography and Summary Statement Form must be included as an integrated part of the web site. They should be included in the navigational structure. They do NOT count toward the 1,200 word limit.

Rule 6: Stable Content

The content and appearance of a page cannot change when the page is refreshed in the browser. Random text or image generators are not allowed.

Rule 7: Viewing Files

The pages that comprise the site must be viewable in a recent version of a standard web browser (e.g., Microsoft Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). Students are responsible for ensuring that their entries are viewable in multiple web browsers. Entries may not link to live or external sites, except to direct viewers to software plug-ins, per Rule 4.

Rule 8: Submitting Entry for Judging

You must submit the URL for the site in advance by the established deadline, after which you will be blocked from editing your site to allow for judging. Because all required written materials are integrated into the site, NO printed copies are required. For access to the NHD web site editor and up-to-date submission procedures, please visit www.nhd.org.