

Judging Reminders

Top 10 Considerations

- 1. Theme.** Students may address any aspect of the theme. Student entries should include a clear explanation of the relationship of the topic to the theme.
- 2. Historical Perspective** – Students should place their topics into historical perspective, examine the significance of their topics in history, and show development over time.
- 3. Student entries should include analysis and interpretation of the topic.** Why did the event happen? What factors contributed to its development? What was the impact or lasting influence on history? How did this topic change the course of events? What effect did it have on a community, society, nation, and/or the world?
4. Student entries should include an investigation into available *primary* and *secondary* resources.
- 5. Entries in all categories should include the following:**
 - A **Title Page** which must include only the title of the entry, the name(s) and contest category.
 - A **Process Paper of no more than 500 words.** The description should describe how students conducted the research and developed the entry. The description must conclude with an explanation of the relationship of the topic to the theme.
 - **An annotated bibliography.** The bibliography should contain all sources that provided usable information in preparing the entry. The annotations for each source must explain how the source was used and how it helped the student understand the topic. *Note: Students are required to separate the bibliography into primary and secondary sources. Some sources may be considered as either primary or secondary. Students should use their annotations to explain why they classified sources that are not clearly primary or secondary in one category or the other.*
- 6. Bibliographic Styles:** The Modern Language Association (MLA) and Turabian are currently accepted by National History Day. Regardless of the format used, the style must be consistent throughout the paper.
- 7. Remain Objective** – Do not let personal bias concerning a topic reflect your rating. Evaluate each entry on its own merit and remember that each student deserves equal attention.
- 8. Be positive and complimentary.** Provide positive comments and constructive criticism to students (verbal and written). *Remember: You will be the most important person the students will meet at the competition. Your encouragement may be the reason students decide to participate in National History Day again next year.*
- 9. Be positive, but sparing in your use of the top category.** Our event is a preliminary competition with state and national competitions to follow.
- 10. Identify the top project(s) in your group.** Your recommendation will be used to determine overall winners. As all groups are not equal, if you feel that another entry is worthy of a top award, you may identify that entry as well.