

National History Day: Writing a Historical Paper

Use the following information to help you write an effective historical paper for your National History Day project.

Rules	Components	Writing Process
<p>1. Length requirements: ~No less than 1,500 or more than 2,500 words ~Does not apply to notes, annotated bibliography, captions, appendix material ~Appendix material must be referred to directly in the text. ~Use of appendices should be very limited: photographs, maps, charts, graphs.</p> <p>2. Citations: ~Citations are required: footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations. ~Give credit for others' ideas and for direct quotes. ~Extensively annotated footnotes shouldn't be used to get around the word limit.</p> <p>3. Preparation Requirements: ~Typed with 1-inch margins on all sides ~Double-spaced ~Number pages consecutively ~12 point type ~Staple in top left-hand corner ~No illustrations on title page ~Not enclosed in cover or binder</p> <p>4. Number of Copies: ~Four copies are submitted before the contest with the appropriate entry form.</p>	<p>1. Title page with project's main title and subtitle, author, and division</p> <p>2. Thesis statement incorporated into introduction to paper</p> <p>3. Body of paper with appropriate subheadings: ~Background/historical context ~Heart of story ~Immediate and long-term impact</p> <p>4. Conclusion with analysis of topic's impact on history and connection to theme</p> <p>5. Citations throughout text: in-text citations</p> <p>6. Appendices which have been referred to directly in the text and include appropriate captions</p> <p>7. Annotated bibliography</p>	<p>1. Organize information ~Write a working thesis statement. ~Organize your research using your thesis statement and research questions as a guide. Your goal is to prove your thesis statement with your research.</p> <p>2. Write a rough draft ~Begin with an interesting lead which includes your thesis statement. ~Divide your topic into several logical headings; use subheadings throughout your paper. Using your notes/printouts, write several paragraphs for each subheading. ~Be sure to use citations in your text; give credit for others' ideas and direct quotes. ~Include references to any supplemental material that you plan to include in the appendix. ~Write a conclusion in which you analyze your topic's impact on history, change over time, and connection to the theme. ~Add appendices</p> <p>3. Edit/revise paper</p> <p>4. Add annotated bibliography</p>