

History Day Outline 2012-2013

About History Day

National History Day is an inter-disciplinary research project for students in grades 6-12. History Day teaches students to:

- Conduct in-depth research
- Use primary and secondary sources
- Read a variety of texts
- Analyze and synthesize information
- Write and present historical content

Students choose a topic that relates to an annual theme, research that topic, and develop their research into one of five presentation categories: research paper, exhibit, documentary, performance, or website. Students may then enter their projects into History Day competitions at school, regional, state and national levels.

2013 History Day Theme

The 2013 History Day theme is “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.” The 2013 theme gives students the opportunity to explore exciting moments in history. Students will be able to apply many topics to this interesting theme.

The Competition Process

History Day is an event that students from across the country participate in. There is a junior division for students from 6th to 8th grade and a senior version for students from 9th to 12th grade. Students may have the opportunity to compete in four different levels:

- School competition
- Regional competition (West Metro – Robbinsdale Middle School)
- State competition (May 4th, University of Minnesota)
- National competition (June 9-13, University of Maryland)

Each year The History Day competition starts out with thousands of projects. By the end only a few are left standing. Do you have what it takes to be a History Day champion?

History day schedule

December 3 - 7	An Introduction to History Day
December 14	A decision of your topic and group choice.
December 21	1 st sources check. Thesis work.
January 11	2 nd sources check. Final category choice.
January 18	3 rd sources check. Thesis rough draft due.
January 25	4 th sources check. Thesis final draft due.
February 1	Process paper and annotated bibliography rough draft due.
February 18 - 22	History Day! Final project, process paper and annotated bibliography is due

History Day Assignments and Due Dates

Journal Entries

Due dates: Every Friday starting on December 14th

At the beginning of every week I will hand out a worksheet for students to fill out throughout the week---this worksheet will be referred to as their history day journals. The journals are meant to keep the student, teacher and parent all on the same page. Parents and students can think of the journals as a newsletter. Each journal will have an explanation of what the students should be concentrating on during the week. On the worksheet students will be logging the time they spent on history day. At the bottom of the page I would like parents to sign the worksheet so I know parents have seen it. Students who keep up with the journal will be up better off by the end of the project.

Topic Choice

Due date: December 14th

Your topic choice will be the most important decision you will make this trimester. You will spend the next 3 months working on this project - so find something that interests you! The key to a good History Day project is a combination of a good topic with good sources. When picking a topic, ask yourself the following questions:

- Does it fit the theme for this year?
- Does the topic interest you?
- Can you find good sources to document the project?
- Why is the project important in history?

A good way to select a topic is to start with an era in history you find interesting. Once you find an interest, the next step is to narrow your general idea into a more focused topic.

Example:

- Theme – Rights in History
- General interest – Rights of Women
- Broad topic – Voting Rights
- Narrow topic – Susan B. Anthony’s impact on women’s suffrage

Group Choice

Due date: December 14th

Students will be able to work on their own or in a group (3 max). Students will be able to choose their own groups, but I will have final approval.

Working alone has some distinct advantages. With no one else to depend on, the success of your History Day project is your own - this can be a very rewarding experience! Working with a group can have distinct advantages. You can share the workload and share skills. Each person will bring their own talents to the group!

Be careful choosing a group! Working with your best friend might not always be the best idea. When selecting group members consider the following:

- Do they have the same topic interests as me?
- What type of people have you enjoyed working with in the past?
- What qualities make someone a good group member?
- What traits in people do I want to avoid when picking my partners?

Source Checks

Due dates: 12/21, 1/11, 1/18 & 1/25

Completing a history day project will require finding a lot of information from a variety of sources; however, not all sources are good ones. Some sources (cough Wikipedia cough) can give you incorrect information. Search engines like, Google and Wikipedia, are good places to get a start --- but are not meant to be all end-all. You need to find sources that dig deeper and you need to find a lot of them!

To make sure that students are not putting it off until the last week---I will be doing four source checks through out the project. For each check you will need to have **at least 5** sources --- only two of these can be from the Internet! I will only do one check per group.

Your sources will need to be listed in MLA format. You will also need to include:

- If your source is primary or secondary
- Where you got the source
- How you used/can use the source

Keeping track of your sources will be important because you will need to turn in an **annotated bibliography** with your project. I suggest creating a note card for each source or creating a master list on a word document.

Category Choice

Due date: January 11th

Students will be able to pick the format to present their project. Students have the following options:

- Research Paper
- Exhibit
- Documentary
- Performance
- Website

When selecting a category it is important to remember the following:

- Which category fits your best interest and skills?
- Will you have access to the equipment or materials to present your project?
- Does your research fit one category better than the other?

Thesis

Due date: Rough draft – January 18th Final Draft - January 25th

A thesis statement is the central argument that holds your project together. It is the heart of your History Day experience. You are creating an argument that expresses your topics significance and demonstrates how the theme plays a central part

- Thesis = Topic + Theme + Impact

Process Paper and Annotated Bibliography

Due dates: Rough draft – February 1st Final Draft – TBA (week of February 18th)

Process Paper

Students creating an exhibit, documentary, performance or website must also write a Process Paper. The process paper introduces your topic, explains how you developed your entry and documents your research. The process paper contains three parts:

- The title page
- The research description
- The annotated Bibliography

Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is an alphabetized list of the sources used in developing a historical project. It includes a short description of each source and how you used it. A History Day Bibliography should be separated into primary and secondary sources. You will need to have a minimum of 20 sources (8 internet). You will receive extra credit for each additional source.

History Day Project

Due Date: TBA (week of February 18th)

Students will present their projects to students, teachers, parents and judges at a history day fair. Students will need to have their projects, process papers and annotated bibliography. Judges will select projects to move on to the regional competition. Students who move on to the regional competition will receive extra credit.

Parent and student have read through the History Day Outline and understand the schedule and expectations.

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____