

OHIO

HISTORY DAY

Frequently Asked Questions - Judging

Who can be a judge?

Everyone with a passion for history and education is welcome to help with Ohio History Day. Pharmacists, nurses, accountants, administrative assistants, social workers, grad students, engineers, attorneys and police officers are just a few of the professions that our previous Ohio History Day judges have held.

Because there are 5 categories you can request what you feel fits you best. Educators, both current and retired, as well as primary, secondary or college level, in any field, have a wealth of experience working with students and make great judges in all categories. Professionals with experience in theater can lend their expertise to evaluating the Performance category. Knowledge of web design or movie creation can help with Website and Documentaries. Anyone with experience in writing can help with the Paper category.

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Will judges be trained?

Absolutely. There are a lot of resources available online for judges to review at their leisure. In addition information will be emailed to registered judges closer to the event. On the day of the contest all judges will participate in an hour long training session.

Judges typically work in teams of 3. (If someone fails to show up or calls in sick teams may have 2 judges.) We try our best to create judge teams that have a balance of content knowledge and judging experience. Teams will have a Lead Judge who will be responsible for filling out a ranking sheet and may need to participate in second round judging.

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What do I need to bring to the judging session? (Student, Teacher, Judge)

Students – The type of project you created determines what you need to bring. Judges and event staff cannot provide you with any additional supplies so please remember to bring everything you may need. In addition to all the items listed below always remember a positive attitude and a smile!

Documentary: Your documentary must be submitted digitally before the contest. On the day of the event bring three copies of your title page, process paper and bibliography. Computers, projectors and internet connection will be provided in each classroom. Event staff will do their best to have the documentaries loaded onto a flash drive however we highly suggest students bring a copy of their documentary on their own flash drive as a backup.

Exhibit: Three copies of your title page, process paper and bibliography as well as your exhibit. The Region 8 event coordinators cannot provide media devices for exhibits but you can bring your own if it enhances your exhibit. It's highly suggested the electronic devices run off battery power as we cannot guarantee access to electricity.

Paper: Your paper and annotated bibliography must be submitted digitally before the contest so judges can read it prior to the event. On the day of the event bring one copy of your paper and annotated bibliography with you.

Performance: Three copies of your title page, process paper and bibliography as well as any costume or prop. The Region 8 event coordinators cannot provide media devices for performances but you can

bring your own if it enhances your exhibit. It's highly suggested the electronic devices run off battery power as we cannot guarantee access to electricity.

Website: Your website must be completed and locked before the competition. Bring the link to your website written out on paper in case the site is not already loaded on the computer in the room. Three copies of your title page, process paper and bibliography for the judges. Computers, projectors and internet connection will be provided in each classroom. Event staff will do their best to have the web links for each participant already on the computer.

Teachers – Teachers do not really need to bring anything to judging sessions. Students are expected to bring everything they need to judging. Take this opportunity to enjoy the months of work you and the students have put into this project.

Judge – Judges don't really need to bring anything! We will provide you with copies of the forms, pencil, pens, breakfast and lunch. A good amount of patience and passion will definitely make the judging experience for you and the students much more enjoyable.

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What is the schedule for the day? (Student, Judges, Volunteers)

Students –

8 – 9 a.m.	Check-in and Exhibit Set up
9 a.m. – Noon	First round judging
Noon – 3 p.m.	Second round judging – see more information below
3 – 4 p.m.	Awards ceremony

Judges –

7:30 – 8 a.m.	Breakfast
8 – 9 a.m.	Training
9a.m. – Noon	First round judging
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Lunch (actual lunch time varies by judging team)
Noon – 3 p.m.	Second round judging
3 – 4 p.m.	Awards ceremony (optional)

Volunteers – varies based on what you have registered to do.

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When can I enter the exhibit area for my judging time?

You will be allowed to enter the exhibit area 15 minutes prior to your judging time. You should not stand too closely to the current students being judged.

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How should judges interact with the participants?

First and foremost keep in mind that these are students, ages 12-18, not history experts or professional public speakers. This may be their first experience with a project this in-depth. They may not be huge fans of history or the topic they are presenting but they are here because their teacher has required it.

When they come in the room, make eye contact, smile and introduce yourself. Just because you're judging them doesn't mean you aren't allowed to be friendly. If this was your child/grandchild/niece/nephew how would you want them treated?

Be patient with them. Give them an opportunity to catch their breath and collect their thoughts before they answer.

Be positive! Both in person and on written evaluations frame comments in way that shows there's room for improvement rather than a failure.

Use the feedback sandwich. Give a compliment, then an area where they can improvement, then a way to possibly improve for next time.

Example: I can tell you have a great amount of enthusiasm for this topic in the way you speak about the event. However I would have liked more information from the point of view of people that participated in the event. You had a good list of resources so next time consider those perspectives as you're doing the rest of your research.

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What will judges evaluate me on?

Historical Quality (60%)

- Entry is historically accurate
- Shows analysis and interpretation
- Places topic in historical context
- Shows wide research
- Uses available primary sources
- Research is balanced

Relation to Theme (20%)

- Clearly relates to topic theme
- Demonstrates significance of topic in history and draws conclusions

Clarity of Presentation (20%)

- Original, clear, appropriate, organized and articulate
- Other criteria vary by the type of project

Judges will also check that you have complied with the rules. Rule infractions are not grounds for disqualification but can be taken into consideration during the final rankings.

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What are rule infractions?

Rules vary with the type of project the student has completed. See the link to the *NHD Rule Book* under *History Day Resources For All*. Rule infractions are not grounds for disqualification but can be taken into consideration during the final rankings. Below is a general summary of rules.

- Relates to the annual theme
- The research, design and creation of the entry is completely the work of the student(s)
- Your title is clearly visible on all written material
- Bring the required written material to the contest
- Maintains word / size / time limit
- Multimedia clips do not exceed total time limit
- Includes annotated bibliography and process paper in the appropriate place
- Total word counts of elements are located in the appropriate place
- All sources and quotes are credited in the appropriate place
- All equipment is student run.

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Can a project be disqualified?

Yes. A project may be disqualified from the contest on three grounds:

1. Plagiarizing all or part of the project. Please note that failing to give proper credit is plagiarism.
2. Reusing, individually or as a group, a project (or research from a project) from a previous year, or entering a project in multiple contests or entry categories within a year.
3. Tampering with any part of the project of another student.

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What are some tips for evaluating projects?

First know the evaluation form. If you are familiar with how they are graded you'll know what to look for. Also come with some questions for the interview portion of the presentation. *Sample questions for Judges* can be found under the *For Judges* section of *History Day Resources*. The questions should help you learn about aspects that may not be obvious from the project such as depth of learning and how they completed their research.

Some judges like to take notes on scrap paper or blank evaluations while the presentation is happening. When all the presentations are done they'll rewrite the notes on the official evaluation forms using good hand writing and complete sentences. Some judges are great at writing meaningful comments as the presentation is happening. And others prefer to completely focus on the presentation then jot down notes and comments after the presentation. It is completely personal preference.

All judge teams will get time at the end of their first round to talk with each other, complete the teams ranking sheet, fill out evaluations and eat lunch.

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What's an example of a completed evaluation form?

Every judge has their own way of writing comments just as every contest has their own way of labeling and coding the project information. You can find examples of completed evaluation forms under the *For Judges* section of *History Day Resources*. The names and projects are completely fictitious while the comments are loosely based on actual feedback.

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What do judges do with completed evaluation forms?

You'll notice that evaluation forms don't actually have any grades or scores on them. When all the judges in a team have completed their evaluations it is up to the judge team to rank the projects. The lead judge will complete a ranking sheet. This sheet is turned in to help inform who goes on to the second round or who has advanced to the State competition.

During the training session you will be instructed where the completed evaluations and ranking sheets can be returned. It is incredibly important that completed evaluations be turned into the proper place and NOT place back into the folder. Students, parents and teachers are eagerly waiting for this information. Some teachers use these evaluations to give students a project grade in class. Students that advance to the State contest will want the feedback to edit and improve their projects, which is usually about a month away.

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What do judges do with flash drives and folders?

During the training session you will be instructed where the folders can be returned. If you judged Papers or Documentaries you may have been given a flash drive with copies of the students' projects. These should be turned in along with your folders when you have finished judging for the day.

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When is second round judging?

The best answer to this questions is that second round judging will take place after first round judging. The number of participants in each category can vary greatly which means that the first round varies from one judging group to another. When all the judge teams in a category have turned in their evaluations and had lunch, the second round will begin.

Depending on the category, second round judging may be done by a caucus of first round judges from that category or by a new judge team.

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Which categories have a second round of judging?

Some categories may not have a second round because the number of entries allows us to judge determine state qualifiers after one round.

Performance and Documentaries are the only categories that require students to be present for the second round. All other second round decisions will be made without the students present.

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When will I get the completed evaluations? (Student, Teacher)

Students – You will get your evaluations from your teacher.

Teachers – Typically evaluations and certificates are mailed the week after the contest. If enough volunteers are available we will attempt to sort all evaluations and make them available at the end of the award ceremony.

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Is the answer to your question missing from this page?

Be sure to check out the other FAQ pages as well as the other links and resources listed on the Ohio History Day Region 8 event page. If you still can't find it email the Region 8 coordinator, Chantal Hayes, at

chayes@cincymuseum.org

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