

**What is National History Day?**

National History Day (NHD) is a highly regarded academic program for elementary and secondary school students. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics’ significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances or documentaries. The program culminates in June held at the University of Maryland at College Park.

**What is expected of me?**

Students are expected to **1** pick a topic related **to World History** and the theme of Debate or Diplomacy, **2** choose a medium to present their topic, **3**research primary and secondary sources about their topic, **4** write a process paper, and **5**make a final presentation to the class for their presentation. Exceptional projects will be asked to compete at the district level.

**What are the mediums of NHD?**

There are 5 mediums to choose from to present their topic. Students may choose to create a website (this year we are using Google Sites and WebCentral if they want to compete), 10 minute dramatic performance, 10 minute documentary, write an essay (1500-2500 words, i.e. 6-10 pages), or construct an exhibit (three-panel display board).

**What is on the Title Page?**

A title page is required as the first page of the written material in every category. Your title page must include **only** the title of your entry, your name(s), the contest division (Senior Division), and the category in which you are entered. DO NOT include any other information!! No pictures, graphics, borders, school name, teacher’s name, or grade.

**What is a Process Paper?**

A process paper is a description of no more than 500 words explaining how you conducted your research, and created and developed your entry. You can go to <http://www.nhd.org/CreatingEntry.htm> to get more detailed information or ask any teacher in the Social Sciences Department. All categories must include a process paper with their entry. The process paper must include the following sections:

**The first section** should explain how you chose your topic and how it relate to the theme.  
**The second section** should explain how you conducted your research.  
**The third section** should explain how you selected your presentation category and created your project.  
**The fourth section** should explain your historical argument (elaborating on your thesis).

**The fifth section** should explain how your topic was historically important (how did it change the world, a field, etc)

**What is an annotated bibliography?**

An annotated bibliography is required for ALL categories. The annotations for each source must explain how the source was used and how it helped you understand your topic. You can also use the annotations to explain why you categorized a particular source as primary or secondary. Your annotations should be 3-5 sentences. The citations must be in Chicago style and typically are three to four sentences.

**Classification of primary or secondary source.**You should use the annotation to explain why you categorized a particular source as primary or secondary, If that is likely to be at all controversial. Historians do sometimes disagree and there's not always one right answer, so justify your choice to the judges.

**Secondary sources which include primary materials.**You also may use the annotation to explain that a book or other secondary source included several primary sources used for the paper. Examples: "This book included three letters between person X on the frontier and person Y back in New England, which provided insight into the struggles and experiences of the settlers." "This book provided four photos of settlers on the Great Plains and their homes, which were used on the exhibit." Please note that the materials included in secondary sources, like your text book, are not primary in this instance because they have been taken out if their original context. For example, an image of a painting may have been cropped, or a letter may be missing sentences.

**Chicago Style**: I highly suggest using your citation spiral handbook you used last year. The only citation generator that is at least close to correct is [KnightCite](http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/index.php?standard=Chicago)  Other sources such as bibme and Citation Machine incorrectly cite Chicago Style. More examples can be found at <https://library.menloschool.org/c.php?g=77258&p=498577>