Welcome to History Day 101
So How Do I Get This Baby Off the Ground?
Check out:
- Theme, sample topics, rules
- NHDC & NHD websites
- Past projects
- Timelines, syllabi, lesson plans & graphic organizers from veterans

Consider
- How much time do you want to devote
- Timelines
- What topics are appropriate for your course.
- Making NHDC your class research project.
- Using NHDC as a cross-curricular project,
- Assessments and graded benchmarks

Introduce NHDC to students:
- Check out past projects & project types
- Review the theme, sample topics, and rules.
- Individuals or groups?

Now it is time for your students to get started!
Work Backwards:
Create a Timeline That Fits Your Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample of a 6 – 12 Week Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 1 week for NHD process and theme introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 1 week topic selection</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 2-4 weeks for research and development of final thesis statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 1-4 weeks for outline development and project creation</td>
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<td>• 1-2 weeks for finishing, editing, and final touches such as writing the process paper and bibliography</td>
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<table>
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<th>Sample of a 13 – 20 Week Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>• 1 week for NHD process and theme introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 1 week for topic selection</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 4-6 weeks for research and development of final thesis statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 4-6 weeks for outline development and project creation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 3-4 weeks for finishing, editing, and final touches such as writing the process paper and bibliography</td>
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Note: If you plan to have your students compete, find your regional contest date and work backwards from there.
Sample 12 Week Timeline
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Classroom Lesson/Activity</th>
<th>Grading Milestone (Points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1- November 2 | • Introduce NHD  
• Show Sample Topics  
• Introduce Theme                               | N/A                                 |
| 2- November 9 | • Topic Selection  
• Preliminary Research  
• Become an Expert                           | Topic Proposal (5)                  |
| 3- November 16 | • Note Taking  
• Working Thesis                                   | Thesis Statement (10)               |
| 4- November 30 | • Citations and Formatting  
• Preliminary Online Research           | • Citation, Bibliographic Entries, and ARS (10) |
| 5- December 7 | • Secondary Sources  
• Primary Sources                                 | Preliminary Annotated Bibliography (10) |
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<th>Week</th>
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| 7- January 4    | • Outlining Project  
• Group or Individual?                                           | • Outline (10)  
• Contracts (2.5)                                      |
| 8- January 11   | • Project Creation  
• Interviewing Experts/Participants                          | Interview Questions (2.5)              |
| 9- January 18   | Project Creation                                              | Preliminary Project Plan (10)          |
| 10- January 25  | Project Creation                                              |                                        |
| 11- February 1  | • Project Creation  
• Process Paper  
• Finalize Annotated Bibliography                             | Process Paper (10)                     |
| 12- February 8  | • Preparing for the Contest  
• Practice Interviews  
• Editing Workshops                                             | Final Project (20)                      |
#1 The Topic Selection Process
#2 Become an Expert
#3 The Thesis Statement
#4 The Research Process
#5 Make Sense of Your Research and Outline Your Argument
#6 Choose a Category
#7 Groups or Individuals?
#8 Project Creation and Rules Summary
#9 The Process Paper
#10 Citations and the Annotated Bibliography
#11 The Contest: Decision and Preparation
Step 1: Topic Selection

- How “old” should a topic be?
- What class does this fit into? What content do you have to meet?
- Personal interests
- Current events
- Consider the “So-What” Factor
- Refer to our website for ideas
- Special awards criteria
- Have students think BIG at first, then narrow down from there
Think Local
Find inspiration in current events & connect the past to the present
Interest: World War II

Theme: Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History

Broad Topic: Concentration Camps

Narrowed Focus: Encountering Buchenwald: U.S. liberation of the camps
Become an Expert!
The Thesis Statement

- History Day projects are NOT reports...They are persuasive projects with a specific point
- Must connect to the annual theme
- Should keep the project focused and tell the judges exactly what to expect
- Refer to your Thesis Development Worksheet in your notebook
- This is a **working** thesis statement- Students should alter with research and “a-ha” moments

**Topic + Theme + Impact = Thesis**
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Oskar Schindler saved Jews during the Holocaust.

Oscar Schindler took a stand against Nazi extermination policies by using his business to save the lives of thousands of Jews.

In 1957, the Soviet Union’s successful Sputnik satellite launch forced the United States to react with the revolutionary space program.

The United States was the first country to go to the moon.
Step 3: Research Process

- Beyond Google
- Research Rendezvous
- Museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, interviews,
- Primary vs. Secondary vs. Tertiary
- Numbers of sources
- Common problems that come up in research
- Variety of sources
- Organize, organize, organize!!
- Note-taking is incredibly important
- Many methods
Analysis IS Part of the Research Process

- Who wrote the document? Who is the document about?
- What is the purpose of the document?
- When was it produced?
- Does it refer to another time period?
- Where was it written?
- Why was it written?
- What kind of language is used?
- What are the expectations of the author?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Students should draw their own informed conclusions about the sources.

Students should ask, answer, and record these questions in their notes!
Using the Internet for Research

- The Internet is a wonderful/terrible thing
- Some sites are not reputable and it is important to show students good vs. bad sites
- Online archives, libraries, museums, and exhibits
- Google Scholar
- What’s up with Wikipedia?
NHDC Partners Available to You and Your Students

- Library of Congress
- Denver Public Library
- History Colorado
- Boulder Public Library
- State and National Archives
- Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave
- Molly Brown House
- Forney Museum
- Golden Museums
- Mizel Museum
- Denver Museum of Nature & Science
- Telecommunications History Group
- Douglas County Libraries
- Four Mile Historic Park
- League of Women Voters
- Loveland Museum & Gallery
- Westminster History Center
- Rocky Mountain PBS
- National Archives
- Firefighters Museum
- Center of the American West
- Center for Colorado & the West at Auraria Library
- The CELL
REMEMBER: The research phase will provide evidence to support the thesis.
Step 4: Outlining Project

- All projects share the same basic outline
- Ties to literacy standards
Introduction

Thesis

A concise statement of the argument linking the topic to the theme.

The evidence and analysis should “prove” the thesis.

Body - Main Point

Evidence (at least three strong examples)
Analysis of evidence: Discuss the context, link it to the thesis, explain how and why it proves your thesis.
Why the topic is important in history
Clearly relates topic to the theme

Make certain that everything you include relates clearly to your thesis and helps you to make your case.

Conclusion

Reiterates the main points presented in the thesis.

A good conclusion will tie up the project and answer the “so what” question while demonstrating short-term and long-term consequences.

Required Written Materials

Title Page
Process Paper
(not required for Paper category entries)
Annotated Bibliography
(Websites must display the Process Paper and Annotated Bibliography within the site)

When writing, every paragraph should be a MEAL

M: Main Point of the paragraph
E: Evidence to support the main point
A: Analysis
L: Link back to main thesis
Title

Background Information
Give background information about some of the big ideas that lead into your main event. For example: segregation, World War II, the Great Depression

Thesis
1-3 sentence that argue a main point and includes all or most of the 5 W’s, the significance of your topic in history and connect to the theme.

Main Argument
The heart of your project and center of the project. Focus on the main event, how it happened, who was involved and why. Often times, this is a great place to support relation to the theme.

Impact
Give the short term impact of the main event. What happened in the weeks, months or maybe even years after?

Build Up
More specific information people will need to know to understand your thesis. Include events that directly lead to your main set of events.

“So What?”/Legacy
What is the long term impact? Why do we still talk about this today? This is a good place to include something about how your topic ties to today.
Step 5: Choosing a Category

- Paper
- Website
- Exhibit
- Documentary
- Performance
Step 6: Groups or Individuals
Step 7: Project Creation

- Every good project starts with an outline
- Every project has the same essential elements
- Projects should not be done overnight
- Substance over Glam
Step 8: Process Paper

- Can be one of the last things students compose
- Describes research process, problems, motivation, etc.
- CANNOT be an extension of the project
- CANNOT be a research paper
- 500 words
Step 9: Citations and Bibliography

- Just because it is one of the last steps, doesn’t mean it should be left until the end!!
- Ongoing
- MLA or Turabian
- Annotation
Step 10: To Compete or Not Compete?

- Contest is optional
- We highly encourage
- How does the process work?
  - In-school contest
  - Regional contest
Helping Kids Prepare for the Contest

- Mock interviews
- Rehearsals
- Editing for errors
- Contest registration
The Four Disqualifiable Offenses

- Plagiarism
- Reusing a History Day project
- Tampering with another student’s project
- Failure to publish a website
Helpful Hints

- Time management
  - The art of NOT procrastinating
- Organization
- Ongoing bibliography
- Multiple perspectives