**The History Day Paper**

The process of writing a historical paper is similar to other paper you have written, but on a larger scale. When finished, you project will be similar to an article written by a historian. You can usually include more information in a paper than in some of the other categories.

**Ideal for Students who:**

* enjoy writing.
* don’t mind working alone on their project.
* have topics with limited visual materials and that can be presented well without much visual support.

**To prove your thesis, a Paper includes:**

* no less than 1,500 words and no more than 2,500 words (about 6-10 pages).
* limited, if any, visuals (maps, charts, pictures, etc.) that you refer to in your paper.



Basic Guidelines:

* Fit within **1,500-2,500 word limit**.
* Must be grammatically correct and well-written.
* Include citations (MLA-style) to document sources of your work.
* Type your paper with 1-inch margins.
* Include a clear introduction, body, and conclusion to your paper.
* A **strong thesis** clearly stated and obvious to the reader from the start.
* All images or visuals need to include URL address to credit the source.
* **Read and Revise.** A polished product takes time, so it is important to re-read and revise your paper. Check for clarity, unity, and coherence. Does it flow well and effectively prove your thesis? Is it clear how your topic relates to the NHD theme: Leadership & Legacy? Does your conclusion flow logically and support your thesis?
* Include word count on final page of paper -- this count does not include citations.

*For sample papers, visit:* [*http://www.nhd.org/StudentProjectExamples.htm*](http://www.nhd.org/StudentProjectExamples.htm)

History Day **HISTORICAL PAPER** Scoring Rubric

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title of Exhibit: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Comments/Suggestions:*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Superior | Excellent | Good | Needs Improvement |
| **Historical Quality - 60%** | **10** | **9** | **8** | **7-5** |
| * historically accurate |  |  |  |  |
| * shows analysis and interpretation |  |  |  |  |
| * places topic in historical context |  |  |  |  |
| * shows wide research |  |  |  |  |
| * uses available primary sources |  |  |  |  |
| * research is balanced & addresses opposing viewpoints |  |  |  |  |
| **Relation to “Leadership & Legacy” Theme - 20%** |  |  |  |  |
| * clearly relates topic to theme with strong thesis statement |  |  |  |  |
| * demonstrates significance of topic (importance) & draws conclusions that prove thesis statement |  |  |  |  |
| **Clarity of Presentation - 30%** |  |  |  |  |
| * **Clearly Organized:** paper is original, clear, appropriate, and well-organized for optimal reader understanding |  |  |  |  |
| * Text is clear, grammatically correct, and spelling is correct. Entry is neatly prepared. |  |  |  |  |
| **Rule Requirements Met:** |  |  |  |  |
| * within limit of 1,500-2,500 words -- word count is included. |  |  |  |  |
| **FINAL SCORE** |  |  |  |  |