

Procedure for Each Entry

1. Briefly make periodic announcements: turn off cell phones, no photos, etc.
2. Introduce yourselves and say “hello.”
3. *Ask for and read the process paper and annotated bibliography.*
4. *Ask the students to begin (documentary, performance) or begin viewing the exhibit.*
5. Keep the time.
6. Conduct the interview.
7. Thank the student(s).
8. Take notes as you go... in pencil.
9. Stay on schedule!

Paper and Website Judges – Please skip steps 3 and 4.

Interviews: Best Practices

Thought	Thoughtful Verbal Comment/ Question
This work is outstanding.	If you say "Great job," say it to every student.
This is my favorite topic/ I love this topic.	"How did you choose your topic?"
This project looks professionally made. I wonder if these kids had help.	"How did you create your project?"
How could this student possibly have read ALL of these sources?	"Please describe your research process. When did you begin gathering and reading your source material?"
This project needs so much work.	"How is your project significant in history?"

Disqualification vs. Infraction

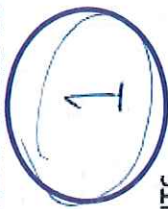
	Minor Infraction	Major Infraction	Disqualification
Definition	A violation that does not provide a competitive advantage	Exceeding any of the equalizers(time, size, words), thus creating a competitive advantage by being able to provide more information	The ONLY grounds for this are: 1. reusing an entry from a previous year; 2. plagiarism; 3. tampering with another entry.
Example	School name on process paper, exceeding word count by 10 words, etc.	Exceeding words by 10+, size by 1 inch+, time by more than 5-10 seconds.	
Procedure	Note these in your comments. These violations should not prevent an entry from advancing. Consider them only to break a tie between two entries that are otherwise equal.	Note these in your comments. These entries should NOT advance. If they truly are the best, please consult with NHD staff.	Please do not act on your own. Bring this concern immediately to NHD staff, who will decide if the entry should be removed from competition.

Evaluation Forms: Best Practices

Thought	Constructive Comment
This project needs a lot of work.	You're off to a good start. Consider strengthening your project by...
Performance is just not your thing but your research is strong.	Your courage at creating a performance is admirable, but another category might enable you to demonstrate your research better.
The documentary sound quality was awful.	The poor audio quality of your documentary distracted from the overall project. Consider testing your audio on different systems and in different settings.
Your annotations don't tell me whether you've even read these sources!	Be careful to use your annotations to explain how you used your sources.
Your project does not relate to the theme.	Consider making a stronger case in your process paper for your project's relationship to the theme.
I don't agree with your interpretation.	Reading ____ would have strengthened your entry by providing additional information on which to base your interpretation. OR Historians disagree on interpretation of this topic. Your case would be strengthened by finding additional evidence for ____.

Unacceptable Evaluation Form Example

PERFORMANCE



COMMENTS

- Strengths
- Areas for Improvement

Fantastic performance! Best one today!

Good job. :)

Awesome props!

Love your topic!

This performance deserves a top award.

Problems:

❖ These comments tell the student nothing about what he did well or how he might improve. They are just flattery.

❖ Please don't provide actual rankings or tell students they deserve an award. Even if an entry places first in the first-round, it may come in lower in the finals. These comments will be very confusing and potentially harmful!

❖ The judge clearly thinks this entry is superior. But why? What is so well done? And, is it flawless? There's always room for growth.

❖ This empty space could be filled with comments.



JUDGING CRITERIA (Judging criteria are explained in the Rule Book)	EVALUATION		
	SPRINKLE	EXCELLENCE	GOOD
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 topic to theme	☒	☐	☐
• Demonstrates significance of topic in history and draws conclusions	☒	☐	☐
Clarity of Presentation (20%)			
• Presentation, written material is original, clear, appropriate, organized and articulate	☒	☐	☐
• Performers show good stage presence; props and costumes are historically accurate	☒	☐	☐
Rules Compliance	Yes	No	
• Maintains time requirement (10 minutes)	☒	☐	
• Includes annotated bibliography	☒	☐	
• All equipment student-run	☒	☐	
• Other	☒	☐	



EXHIBIT

Unacceptable Evaluation Form Example

JUDGING CRITERIA (Judging criteria are explained in the Rule Book)	EVALUATION			
	SUPERIOR	EXCELLENT	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

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 topic to theme	☒			
• Demonstrates significance of topic in history and draws conclusions	☒			

Clarity of Presentation (20%)				
• Exhibit, written material is original, clear, appropriate and organized				☒
• Exhibit is organized, has visual impact, correctly uses maps, photos, etc.				☒

Rules Compliance	Yes	No
• Maintains size requirement (40" x 30" x 72")	☐	☒
• Media device maintains time limit (3 minutes)	☒	☐
• Maintains word limit (500 words)	☐	☒
• Includes annotated bibliography	☒	☐
• Other	☐	☐

COMMENTS

- Strengths
- Areas for improvement

Your labels are crooked.

You've misspelled so many words on this exhibit.

This has to be more than 500 words and it looks too big as well.

Too many "Triangle Shirtwaist Fire" exhibits. Judges have a hard time telling them apart. Pick a better topic.

Next time go to the library and stop using the Internet.

You relied too much on two sources.

Ask your teacher for more help.

More comments are needed here.

Problems:

- ❖ Each of these comments is negative but could be rephrased in the positive.
- ❖ If you suspect a rules violation, please verify. Don't guess!
- ❖ You may have seen this topic a dozen times, but it's new to this student and he/she deserves your objective feedback.
- ❖ Some students live far from a library and many quality websites contain reliable material.

- ❖ The checkboxes indicate this entry ranks somewhere in the middle of those in the judge's group, but the comments say NOTHING about what the student did well. What was so "excellent?" The student may conclude that the judge rated the whole project poorly because it wasn't "pretty" and the topic was not favored.



DOCUMENTARY

Better Example #1

JUDGING CRITERIA (Judging criteria are explained in the Rule Book)	EVALUATION			NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
	SUPERIOR	EXCELLENT	GOOD	
Historical Quality (60%)				
• Entry is historically accurate	☐	☒	☐	☐
• Shows analysis and interpretation	☐	☐	☒	☐
• Places topic in historical context	☐	☐	☒	☐
• Shows wider research	☐	☒	☐	☐
• Uses available primary sources	☐	☐	☒	☐
• Research is balanced	☐	☒	☐	☐
Relation to Theme (20%)				
• Clearly relates topic to theme	☐	☒	☐	☐
• Demonstrates significance of topic in history and draws conclusions	☐	☐	☒	☐
Clarity of Presentation (20%)				
• Presentation, written material is original, clear, appropriate, organized and articulate	☐	☒	☐	☐
• Entry is organized, visual impact is appropriate to topic	☒	☐	☐	☐
Rules Compliance	Yes	No		
• Maintains time requirement (10 minutes)	☒	☐		
• Includes annotated bibliography	☒	☐		
• All equipment student-run	☒	☐		
• Other	☒	☐		

COMMENTS

- Strengths • Areas for Improvement

Very nicely assembled documentary that is interesting and a pleasure to view. Your project is supported by a strong research base. Especially impressive are your interviews and primary sources.

Your argument would have been stronger and more persuasive if more context had been included: more background on social attitudes towards women in sports more generally and in American "car culture" as well as greater reference to the profound transformations in those attitudes and in women's rights and status in the 1970s.

Providing this context would strengthen your research base even more as well as improve your argument.

Reasons:

- ❖ The comments are positive and criticisms are phrased constructively.
- ❖ Specific criticisms are backed up with examples.
- ❖ The comments support the checkmarks.

Better still?:

- ❖ More could have been said about why the interviews and sources were so impressive.
- ❖ This judge could have written more, particularly about the topic's relationship to the theme.
- ❖ Another positive comment or two would be appreciated.



EXHIBIT

Better Example #2

JUDGING CRITERIA (Judging criteria are explained in the Rule Book)	EVALUATION			
	SUPERIOR	EXCELLENT	GOOD	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

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 topic to theme				
• Demonstrates significance of topic in history and draws conclusions				

Clarity of Presentation (20%)				
• Exhibit, written material is original, clear, appropriate and organized				
• Exhibit is organized, has visual impact, correctly uses maps, photos, etc.				

Rules Compliance	Yes		No	
• Maintains size requirement (40" x 30" x 72")				
• Media device maintains time limit (3 minutes)				
• Maintains word limit (500 words)				
• Includes annotated bibliography				
• Other				

COMMENTS

- Strengths
- Areas for improvement

Interesting topic; very relevant to today in the era of laptops/tablets/cell phones, etc. The exhibit itself is laid out in a clean and clear manner.

Although you have a good thesis statement, be sure to incorporate the theme words "Turning Points" throughout your key points. You have to make the case for the connection to the theme.

Adding some information about what events preceded your topic and how your topic influenced events afterward would have strengthened your exhibit. You've included so much important information but it is unclear how these events came to be or their impact in history.

Work to expand your research into other categories of sources. Try to avoid using only websites in your secondary research. The New York Times is great, but work to branch out more. Reading more and varied secondary material also would help you to determine the historical context of your entry.

Enlist the help of a Language Arts teacher for a thorough proofreading of your process paper and exhibit text.

Your annotations are helpful in demonstrating how a source helped you understand your topic.

Thank you for participating in NHD.

Reasons:

- ❖ The comments are positive and criticisms are phrased constructively.
- ❖ Specific criticisms are backed up with examples. This reads like an action plan for improvement.
- ❖ The comments support the checkmarks.
- ❖ The comments end on a positive note and thanking the student for participating is kind and thoughtful.