

Resource Handout: Category Rules

Individual Category Rules Papers

1. Length Requirements: 1500 to 2500 words.
2. Citations: footnotes, endnotes or internal documentation are required.
3. Preparation requirements: Papers must be typed, computer printed, or legibly handwritten in ink on plain, white 8.5 x 11 inch paper with 1-in margins on all sides. Numbered pages, double-spaced with writing on one side and with no more than 12 characters per inch or no less than 10-point type. Papers must be stapled in the top left corner and should not be enclosed in any cover or binder. No illustrations on the title page.
4. Submit 4 copies of the paper with the proper entry form by the deadline.

See National History Day *Contest Rule Book* for more specific information on how to write a historical paper.

Individual & Group Category Rules Performances

1. Time Limit: 10 minutes max.
2. Performance introduction: the title of your entry and the names of the participants must be the first and only announcement before the start of the performance.
3. Media Devices: Use of slides, tape recorders, computers, or other media within your performance is permitted. You must run all equipment.
4. Your script should NOT be included in any written materials.

See National History Day *Contest Rule Book* for more specific information on how to create a performance.

Individual & Group Category Rules Exhibits

1. Size Requirements: 40" wide, 20" deep, and 6 ft. tall. Does not include the table on which the exhibit is displayed unless it's part of the exhibit. Circular exhibits must be no more than 30" in diameter.
2. Media Devices – tape recorders, video monitors, projectors, etc. – must not run for more than a total of 3 minutes and are subject to a 500-word limit.
3. Word limit: There is a 500-word limit that applies to all student-created text that appears on or as part of an exhibit.

See National History Day *Contest Rule Book* for more specific information on how to create an exhibit.

Individual & Group Category Rules Documentaries

1. Time Limit: 10 minutes max.
2. Introduction: Announce the title of the presentation and names of participants only. No live narration or comments prior to or during the presentation.
3. Students are responsible for running all equipment and carrying out any special lighting or other effects.
4. All entries must be student-produced.
5. All entries must be original works. With proper credit, professional photos, film, slides, recorded music, etc. within the presentation may be used.
6. Credits: At the conclusion of the documentary, provide a general list of acknowledgements and credits for any featured music, images, film/media clips, interviews, or other sources.
7. Displays: Added (external) visuals or written material are not allowed.
8. Computer Entries: Student-composed computer programs are acceptable entries.

See National History Day *Contest Rule Book* for more specific information on how to create a documentary.