

History Day Judging Process and Criteria

Consensus Judging:

NHD relies on consensus judging. That means that instead of giving entries numeric scores, you will be ranking them. You will be assigned to a team of 3 judges, one of whom will be designated as the captain. It is important that everyone on your team agrees on the overall rankings of the entries you judge.

You will be given a packet with important information such as the schedule for your team, evaluation forms, and other contest forms. There will be an evaluation form for each entry you have been assigned to judge. It is recommended that you write comments on the evaluation sheets as you go through the day. You can save the check marks for the end of the day when you and your judging teammates discuss your entries.

The comments you write and the ratings you give should be consistent with those of the other judges on your team. You don't need to give exactly the same ratings for each line of the form, but you should be within range of each other. However, all judges on a team must give the same overall ranking for a particular entry and write comments that are similar and complementary to one another.

Judging Criteria:

Historical Quality (60%)

- Historical accuracy
- Historical context
- Analysis and interpretation
- Use of available primary sources
- Wide research
- Balanced research

Relation to Theme (20%)

- Clearly relates to theme
- Demonstrates significance of topic in history and draws conclusions

Clarity of Presentation (20%)

- Presentation, written materials are original, clear, appropriate, organized, and articulate
- Entry is organized; visual impact is appropriate to topic