

Models of Participation

The History Day model is flexible, allowing teachers and students to participate in a variety of ways.

Class Assignment

History Day is assigned as the major project for a quarter or semester. Projects usually account for a major project in the overall grade for a quarter or semester. For schools that intend to participate in the competitive cycle, projects are usually completed by mid to late February. Participation in the competition cycle is not a required part of History Day participation.

Interdisciplinary

Teachers collaborate to build upon the learner outcomes required for a History Day project. Language Arts instructors focus on research and writing skills. Social Studies teachers assist students with topic selection and research/analysis skills. Library/Media specialists can plan an essential role in helping students access research and work with technology.

Enrichment

Students who have completed the standard curriculum, or want to substitute an in-depth research assignment for other assignments, participate in History Day as an optional project for which students can get classroom credit. A teacher or other school coordinator can serve as advisor.

Extracurricular

History Day is offered as part of a menu of co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Classroom credit is optional.

Homeschool

Homeschool students are welcome to participate in History Day. A parent can serve as advisor for the project.

Independent

If students are enrolled in a public, private, or charter school that does NOT participate in History Day, they can still participate on their own. A teacher or parent can serve as the advisor.

There is no required timeline for History Day participation. If competing, most teachers start with their Regional event date and plot backwards.

State	Qualifying students advancing from Regional contests are eligible to compete at State History Day in late April . Qualifiers get more information at Regional awards ceremonies.
Regional	Ohio is divided into 10 Regional contests, which take place between late February and early April . Check the Ohio History Day website for information on your Regional Coordinator, as well as registration deadlines (which are usually two weeks before the event).
School Fair	Depending on the number of students you have participating, you may need to narrow down the entries that are eligible to register for a Regional contest. You will want to host any school fairs or contests at least three weeks before your Regional event to give students enough time to confirm their participation and register. Many school contests take place late January through February.
Contest Prep	While not always required for school contests, National History Day requires that students create an annotated bibliography and process paper for all other levels of competition. Students often finalize these documents before school contests, or once they have been selected for Regionals .
Project Creation	The actual process of putting a project together might not take place until January or February . Teachers often encourage their students to focus on research, analysis, writing, and project planning before bringing out the scissors and glue, costumes, and video editing equipment.
Research & Analysis	After selecting topics, the research process begins, often extending from November through early January . This timeline varies widely based on when a school begins and how much time a teacher is spending on the project in class. Students should begin with secondary sources to get an overall view of their topic and understand how it changed history before looking for primary sources.
Topic Selection	Discussions of the annual theme, topic exploration, and selection usually begin immediately after the kick-off . Teachers usually give their students time to explore a variety of topics, and get a sense of the available resources before finalizing.
Kick-Off	Usually beginning in October or November , schools will pace their programs at one History Day a week until they reach contest season... and some carve out time for more consolidated focus on History Day.