

OHIO HISTORY DAY YOUTH

Contest Rule Book



Ohio History Day is a program of the Ohio History Connection and an affiliate of National History Day, Inc.

This rulebook is effective as of September 2024 and supersedes all previous ones.

Welcome to History Day!

Ohio Youth History Day is not just a day; it is an experience for students' grades 4-5! In this year-long program, you have the opportunity to become a real historian, choosing your own topic, doing research with primary and secondary sources, and coming up with your own thoughts and ideas about what you've learned. You then get to share your research and ideas by creating either an exhibit or performance. You also have the option to compete with your project in the State Youth History Day Competition that takes place each year in April!

History Day Division and Contest

The Ohio History Day Youth divisions include 4th and 5th grades. The other divisions are:

- Junior: grades 6-8
- Senior: grades 9-12

Contest

Unlike the other divisions, Youth History Day Participants may only compete at the **State level**. Youth Division students do not compete in Regional contests nor can they advance to the National competition.

Categories

Youth History Day students may choose to create a project in either the Exhibit or Performance categories. More information on these categories can be found below.

Rules for All Categories

Rule 1. Contest Year

The contest year runs from the end of the Youth History Day awards ceremony in April to the end of the next year's award ceremony. You can only begin working on next year's project after the current contest year has ended.

Rule 2. Entry

You may only enter one project in one category per Youth History Day contest.

Rule 3. Individual or Group Entries

You may either create your project as a single person or as a group. Groups cannot be larger than five (5) students. Everyone in a group must participate in researching and creating the project. Be sure to ask your teacher about their rules for group projects.

Rule 4. Student Research

You or your group members must do your own research, project planning, and creation.

- If you are part of a group, your team must work together to do the research
- You cannot share research with students outside of your group
- You cannot enter someone else's research or project as your own
- You cannot use a project from a past year again.
- You must choose a new topic to research each year

Rule 5. Plagiarism

Plagiarizing all or part of your YHD project will result in disqualification.

Plagiarism is defined as:

- To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- To use (another's production) without crediting the source
- To commit literary theft
- To present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

Some examples of plagiarism are:

- Turning in someone else's project as your own
- Failing to put quotation marks around direct quotes and include both a source credit and a proper citation of the source
- Failing to provide proper citations for all quoted and paraphrased material
- Failing to provide the sources for audio, video, or images used in your project
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quote

To prevent plagiarism, make sure you give credit to each primary and secondary source you use and cite every source used in your bibliography.

Rule 6: Interviews with Historians

If you are able to, an interview with a person who lived through or has first-hand experience with your topic can be a fantastic source. However, do not interview a professional historian about your topic. Any information you may get in an interview is most likely already in the historian's books and other published materials. Try reading those instead.

Rule 7: Tampering

Tampering with another student's project will result in disqualification. Tampering may include:

- Damaging or stealing part of an exhibit
- Purposefully distracting or disrupting students in a performance

Rule 8: Annual Theme

Your history day project must clearly relate to the yearly theme. For more information on this year's theme, visit our Ohio [Youth History Day webpage](#).

Rule 9: English and Translations

Your final projects and written materials must be in English. However, you can research your topic in another language.

Rule 10. Reasonable Help

You must do your own research, and design and create your own project. However, you may have some help from others. Here are examples of help that is allowed:

Reasonable Help	Your Responsibility
A teacher gives guidance as you research and think through your sources.	You do the research and come up with your own ideas and conclusions.
A parent uses a cutting tool to cut your exhibit board or performance prop.	You design and make the board or prop.
A teacher reviews your work and gives editing suggestions.	You think about each edit and make changes to your work.
A parent or guardian helps in sewing costumes.	You design the costumes.
Non-team members carry your exhibit, equipment, or performance props into the contest space.	You set up your exhibit and equipment. You move your props into the performance area, position them for your performance, and remove them when the performance is over.
A trusted adult is copied on emails with people you are asking for an interview and comes with you to give the interview in person.	You ask the person you want to interview and plan, give, and record the interview.

Rule 11: Supplying Equipment

You are responsible for making sure you have all of the props and equipment you need for your project. Think about how you are going to move your project and set it up when you are deciding what materials or items to use.

Rule 12: Costumes

Only the students in the performance category may wear costumes related to their topic.

Rule 13: Prohibited Materials

The following are not allowed at the Youth History Day contest venue.

- Weapons of any kind, including real, toys, or replicas of any form
- Live animals except service animals
- Anything that could cause damage to the competition venue.

If you are not sure if something is prohibited, email historyday@ohiohistory.org.

Rule 14. Interview with Judges

During the Youth History Day contest, you will have a short interview with the judges. Be prepared to answer the judges' questions about your project and how you made it. Do not prepare a set speech. Remember, your project should stand on its own without your input.

Required Written Materials

Rule 15. Written Materials

Your project must have three copies of the following items in this order:

1. Title Page
2. Process Paper
3. Bibliography

These materials must be typed or neatly printed on plain white paper and stapled together in the top left corner. Do not place them in a cover, binder, or folder.

Rule 16. Title

Your project must have a title that is clearly visible on all written materials.

Rule 17. Title Page

You need a title page as the first page in you written materials. The title page must include only the following:

- The title of your project
- Your name(s)
- "Youth Division"
- Category (group or individual; exhibit or performance)
- Project word count (exhibit only)
- Process Paper word count

Exhibit

Title
Student Name(s)
Youth Division
Individual Exhibit
Exhibit: 299 words
Process Paper:
250 words

Performance

Title
Student Name(s)
Youth Division
Group Performance
Process Paper:
286 words

Rule 18. Process Paper

The process paper explains how you planned and created your project. It can be no longer than 300 words and must not include quotes, images, or captions. Words in the process paper do not count against the words limit for exhibits. Your process paper should answer these questions:

1. How did you choose your topic and how does it relate to this year's theme?
2. How did you research your topic?
3. How did you make your project?
4. What is your historical argument?
5. How is your topic significant in history?

Rule 19. Bibliography

A bibliography is a list of all the sources you used or consulted when making your project. Your sources must be divided into two different sections in your bibliography: one for primary sources and one for secondary. Words in the bibliography do not count in your process paper or the exhibit word count.

Example of a book citation (Chicago style):

Bates, Daisy. *The Long Shadow of Little Rock*. New York: David McKay Co. Inc., 1962.

Example of an online image citation (MLA style):

Leutze, Emanuel. *Washington Crossing the Delaware*. 1851. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. www.metmuseum.org/collections/search-the-collections/20011777. Accessed 18 September 2024.

Rule 20. Style Guides

Citations must follow one of these two style guides:

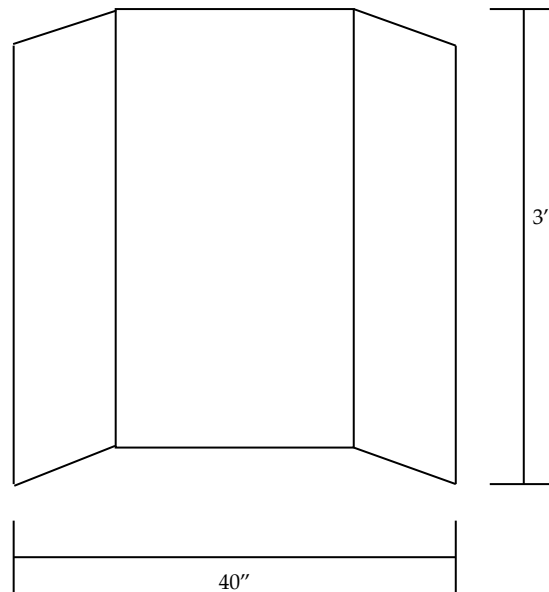
1. *The Chicago Manual of Style* by the University of Chicago Press
2. *MLA Handbook* by the Modern Languages Association of America.

For more information about bibliographies, look at the Purdue Online Writing Lab at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> or the Writing Center at the University of Wisconsin Madison at: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/> .

Rules for Exhibits

Size requirements

The size of your exhibit can be no larger than 40 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 36 inches (3ft) high. This is the size of the standard tri-fold display board you can buy anywhere they sell office supplies.



E.1 Word Limit

There is a 300-word limit for any text you write on any part of your exhibit.

This includes

- Any words on titles, subtitles, captions, graphs, timelines, media devices, or additional items (e.g. photo albums, scrapbooks).

This does not include

- Direct quotes from primary sources
- Brief credits for primary source materials

E.2 Media

- If used, media devices or electronics in an exhibit must not run for more than a total of two minutes and must not loop
- Links to content outside of your exhibit, like QR codes, are not allowed

E.3 Crediting Sources

All quotes and visual sources (photographs, paintings, charts, graphs, etc.) must have a brief credit near them on your exhibit board. These do not count against your exhibit's word limit.

For Quotations: Include the author, title, and date.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
(Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, 1863)

For Visual Sources: Include the content of the image, date, and where you found the image.



Abraham Lincoln, 1865, Library of Congress

Youth Exhibit Checklist

- No larger than 40 inches wide, 30 inches deep and 3 feet tall when displayed
- 3 copies of the title page, process paper and bibliography
- Bibliography is separated into primary and secondary sources
- Process paper (300 words)
- Exhibit is related to theme
- Exhibit title is clear and visible
- Labels, captions and titles include no more than 300 student written words
- Has visual impact
- Exhibit is registered by deadline
- Students are prepared to talk to the judge

Rules for Performances

P.1 Time Limit

Performances cannot be longer than 7 minutes in length. This time starts at the beginning of the performance after you announce your project's title and your name(s).

- You have five minutes to set up any props or other items before your performance
- You have five minutes after your performance ends to remove props and participate in an interview with the judges

P.2 Introduction

The title of your project and your name(s) are the first and only things you must say before you begin your performance.

P.3 Media Devices

You are allowed to use slides, tape recorders, computers, or other media during a performance. You must run all equipment and carry out any special lighting or sound effects.

P.4 Script

The script for your performance should not be included in the written materials you give to judges.

P.5 Audience Interaction

During your performance, you may not interact with or require participation by the audience.

P.6 Costumes and Props

You may have help in making your costumes or props, but you must come up with the design, choice of fabrics, etc. You can also buy or rent a costume. Toy, replica, or any other kind of weapons are banned. Remember, with props and costumes, simple is best. You only have a small amount of time to set up and tear down your props.

Youth Performance Checklist

- 7-minute maximum for presentation
- Maximum 5 minutes to set up and 5 minutes to take down, including judge interview
- 3 copies of title page, process paper and bibliography
- Bibliography is separated into primary and secondary sources
- Process paper (300 words)
- Performance is related to the theme
- All props and sets are student supplied
- Only students run any media equipment
- Performance is registered by deadline
- Students are prepared to talk to the judges

How Projects will be Judged

Who Are the Judges?

Historians, teachers, and others interested in history and learning will be judging the students' projects.

How Does the Evaluation Process Work?

Several groups of judges will view projects and interview students. Each project will have a specific judging time. Judges will read the process paper and bibliography, view the exhibit or watch the performance, and ask the student(s) questions. If there are a large number of projects, there will be a second round where a different judge group will rank the top projects chosen in the first round. There will be no interviews during the second round.

Evaluation Breakdown:

Historical Quality (80%)

- Is the entry historically accurate?
- Does the entry present a historical argument and multiple perspectives?
- Does the project tell why the topic is important to history?
- Does the bibliography show good and wide research?
- Does the project clearly relate to the annual theme?

Clarity of Presentation (20%)

- Is the project creative?
- Is the message or story clear or easy to follow?

Project Rules

Any History Day rules not followed in a project, such as size or word limits, will affect the judges' overall decision.

The Decisions of the Judges Are Final

Ohio Youth History Day works hard to make sure the contest is as fair as possible. All judges' decisions are final. However, if you feel your project has been judged unfairly please let History Day Staff know so what we can make improvements for the next contest.

Contact Us!

We're so happy that you're participating in Youth History Day this year! We can't wait to see your final project! Remember that if you need help, you can always ask your teacher. Ohio History Day staff are also available to answer questions and give feedback. Feel free to contact us at any time.

Ohio Youth History Day is located at:

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