

Competition Categories

Documentaries: After research, writing the script is the first step to creating a documentary. A storyboard, which matches the script, will help you put your photographs, documents, film, illustrations, etc. in order. Using the documentary category to make a videotape of a performance does not count as a valid entry. Documentaries should incorporate photographs, historical film and materials that illustrate the event and provide an interpretation of its significance within the theme. Documentaries should be 10 minutes long—no longer and no shorter. If it's too long, it violates established rules. If it's too short, you probably didn't cover the topic thoroughly.

Exhibits: You will need to design it and acquire materials. Students should do all of the work on an exhibit unless it is physically dangerous to do so (such as sawing wood or anything that requires power tools). Prepare for building your exhibit by drawing a layout first. Be innovative! Use rotating exhibits, rough-hewn boards, metal or flexible materials as opposed to just pasting photocopies on poster board. Remember . . . you will need to transport whatever you build to state and national competitions in Fountain Hills and Washington D.C., respectively. If at all possible, design it to fold or disassemble with screws, etc. so you can take it on an airplane. *Costumes are prohibited in the exhibit category.* No more than 500 student-composed words are allowed on an exhibit. You may also add quotes, timelines and captions, but be careful not to clutter your exhibit. An exhibit should speak to the person viewing it visually and should explain itself. The rules allow exhibits to be 30"x 40" on the footprint and up to 6' tall. The best entries will push these size limits. An exhibit is NOT like a science fair entry. To be competitive, it should not be a flimsy tri-fold from a discount store.

Historical papers: This category is for individual projects only. An historical paper can be no less than 1,500 words and may not exceed 2,500 words. Successful papers demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the event, as well as the student's thoughts. This is NOT a report! The result should be fun to read and insightful. Papers are submitted prior to the competitions. This is the only category that does not require a process paper.

Performances: After doing the research, begin writing a script. Decide if you'll use costumes or props (as with exhibits, if you decide to use props, remember that they should fold or disassemble easily). Writing a script that incorporates the theme is one of the trickiest skills in NHD. Remember that you must show balanced research in your "story", while still making it entertaining and well-performed. Memorize the script. Performances are not only about good acting skills, they're also about good writing and art. You must be able to set up any props (without adult assistance) in five minutes. Performances should be exactly 10 minutes long.

Websites: **Beginning in 2009/2010 NHD requires web site projects to be created using the NHD website editor.** Visit the NHD website for updated information at: www.nhd.org Remember that your website is limited to 100 MB and no more than 1,200 visible, student-composed words. This means that you must be very selective in what you include. While you may use Firefox or Opera, please remember that judges will use Internet Explorer to view your project. Do not include links to other websites. The judges will not have Internet access, and therefore will be unable to connect to a live link during evaluation. Your project

should reflect your work. Additionally, make sure that your video clips do not exceed 45 seconds. Since video clips tend to be large, use them sparingly because they will consume a lot of your 100 MB.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Students unable to attend a regional or state contest due to conflict with family religious practices or academic testing might be pre-judged at both the regional and state level. Please contact the state coordinator or your regional coordinator **at least two weeks prior to the competition** to arrange this. Requests made within the week of competition will not be considered. At least one member of any group must attend Regional and State Finals for an entry to be judged.

If at all possible, students should attend each level of competition, as the experience gained from the judging process can be very important in future contests.