

PROCESS PAPERS

A two-page PROCESS PAPER must accompany all exhibits, documentaries, performances, and websites. The only category not requiring a process paper is the historical paper. Remember, in the process paper, you are selling yourself. Make sure the paper is clean, double-spaced, and well-typed. The limit is 500 words.

Organization of the process paper:

Paragraph #1—should have an exciting opening statement. This thesis statement should tell the judges what your/our exhibit, performance, documentary, or website presentation “is.” Use active verbs (talk, go, etc.) to make your project come alive. Explain how you became interested in this particular topic. Give specific examples. If you started with a broader topic and narrowed your focus as you researched, explain this to the judges.

Paragraph #2—should tell how you conducted your research. Where did you go? Did you start at a library, in a hospital, with a particular person? Be sure to tell something special about your research. Describe your various resources. Did you interview someone interesting and helpful? Was there something special in the technical development of the project that really amazed and excited you? What sources were the best?

Paragraph #3—should explain how you selected your project category and created your project. It should include the technical aspect of the exhibit, performance, documentary, or website. How did you build your project? How did you take your pictures? What software did you use? With whom did you consult? What materials did you use and why?

Paragraph #4—should be perfectly clear about how the theme of the history fair and your topic fit together. List the reasons. This should be your dynamite paragraph. Put dates, list facts and people, show that you have mastered the theme. You must place your topic in its historical perspective. Make sure you have shown cause, effect, change, and/or the impact of the topic in history.