

How to Create a Historical Web Site

(Revised 08/19/10)

NEW INFORMATION

For the 2010–2011 school year, National History Day will require web site projects to be created using the NHD web site editor, beginning at the local school level.

Below is some basic information about the NHD web site editor. Also, please check the website, www.nhd.org, for all up-to-date information about the website category and rules. To participate in the web site category, students will need to build their sites on NHD's Web Portal. To be clear:
STUDENTS MUST GO THROUGH THE NHD PORTAL TO ACCESS THE NHD WEB SITE EDITOR – THEY CANNOT GO DIRECTLY TO WEEBLY.COM.

A full suite of site-building tools will be available with the NHD web site editor. While third-party tools may be used to develop objects and components for an entry, the final code must be uploaded with the NHD web site editor. All objects or components constructed with third-party tools (e.g. Dreamweaver, iWeb, MS Expression) must be portable to and function correctly with the NHD web site editor. All hosting will be performed by NHD servers. The 100 MB size restriction on entries will remain. Students are free to begin building their entries as early as September, and will work on the same NHD web site as they advance through levels of competition. With the NHD Web Portal, students are free to access and work on their sites at any time other than judging periods, periods during which their sites will be closed to any editing.

No hard copies of the home page, a process paper, and an annotated bibliography will still be required for submission.

Judging Web Sites:

The web sites must be completed BY THE REGISTRATION DATE, typically four weeks prior to the regional fair, allowing the judges the opportunity to review the entries prior to the contest day. No hard copy print-outs of the web site are required. Judges will interview the students at the contest to discuss their evaluation with the students and to determine the winners.

Web Sites

Web site projects may be done individually or in a group of from 2-5 students. NEW THIS YEAR: individual and group web sites will be judged as separate categories.

A web site should reflect your ability to use web site design software and computer technology to communicate your topic's significance in history. The historical quality, analysis, and interpretation of your topic must be clear and evident to the viewer. Web sites are the most interactive of all NHD categories. In designing your entry, you should include elements that actively engage your audience in learning about your topic. These elements do not have to be technologically complex, but they should let the audience participate in exploring the topic, rather than passively viewing information. Your presentation should include primary materials, but must also be an original production.

DON'T FORGET: "Rules for All Categories" on pages 8-11 in the Rule Book, apply to ALL entries, including web sites!

Rule 1: Entry Production

All entries must be original productions constructed using the NHD web site editor beginning at the school level. You may use professional photographs, graphics, video, recorded music, etc. within the site. Such items must be integrated into the web site, and proper credit must be given within the site as well as in the annotated bibliography. The student must operate all software and equipment in the development of the web site.

NOTE: Using objects created by others specifically for use in your entry violates this rule. However, using graphics, multimedia clips, etc. which already exist is acceptable.

Rule 2: Size Requirements

Web site entries may contain no more than 1,200 visible, student-composed words. Code used to build the site and alternate text tags on images do not count toward the word limit. Also excluded are: words found in materials used illustrations or used to briefly credit the sources of illustrations and quotations; recurring menus, titles, and navigation instructions; words within primary documents and artifacts; and the annotated bibliography and process paper that must be integrated into the site. The entire site, including all multimedia, may use no more than 100MB of file space.

Rule 3: Navigation

One page of the web site must serve as the "home page" with the file name "index." The home page must include the names of participants, entry title, division, and a main menu that directs viewers to the various sections of the site. All pages must be interconnected with hypertext links. Automatic redirects are not permitted.

Rule 4: Multimedia

Each multimedia clip may not last more than 45 seconds. You may record quotes and primary source materials for dramatic effect, but you may not narrate your own compositions or other explanatory material. All multimedia must be stored within the site; you may not use embedded material hosted elsewhere (e.g., YouTube, Google Video). There is no limit to the number of multimedia clips you may use but you must respect the file size limit. If you use any form of multimedia that requires specific software to view (e.g., Flash, QuickTime, Real Player), you must provide on the same page a link to an Internet site where the software is available as a free, secure, and legal download. Judges will make every effort to view all multimedia content, but files that cannot be viewed cannot be evaluated as part of the entry.

Rule 5: Required Written Materials

The annotated bibliography and process paper must be included as an integrated part of the web site. They should be included in the navigational structure. They do NOT count toward the 1,200-word limit. Refer to Part II, Rules 15–17, for citation and style information.

Rule 6: Stable Content

The content and appearance of a page cannot change when the page is refreshed in the browser. Random text or image generators are not allowed.

Rule 7: Viewing Files

The pages that comprise the site must be viewable in a recent version of a standard web browser (e.g., Microsoft Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). You are responsible for ensuring that your entry is viewable in multiple web browsers. Entries may not link to live or external sites, except to direct viewers to software plug-ins, per Rule E4.

Rule 8: Submitting Entry for Judging

You must submit the URL for the site in advance by the established deadline, after which you will be blocked from editing your site to allow for judging. Because all required written materials from Part II, Rule 12, are integrated

into the site, NO printed copies are required. For access to the NHD web site editor and up-to-date submission procedures, please visit www.nhd.org.

Additional suggestions based on past judges' comments:

- Use RELATIVE links, rather than hard-coded links
- Clarify WHO is being interviewed.
- Use more phrases with buttons rather than long sentences.
- Strive for the look and feel of a real website, rather than a school project:
 - The student's name(s) need not be prominent. (Don't put the title, then "by Mary Jones").
 - Center the content on the page.
 - Forced path is discouraged (like PowerPoint presentation with "previous" and "next" buttons).
 - Make quotes stand out by using different font color.
 - Include navigation elements at top and bottom of page (especially if it is a long page that requires scrolling).
 - Thesis statement needs to be obvious (but doesn't need a box around it with a label saying "thesis statement").