

Web Sites (Revised 12/01/08)

Web site projects may be done individually or in a group of from 2-5 students, however they will all be judged as one category (individual and group projects will compete against each other.)

Judging Web Sites:

The web sites must be submitted BY THE ENTRY DATE, allowing the judges the opportunity to review the entry prior to the contest day. ONE CD-R with the student's web site will be submitted along with FOUR hard copies of the process paper and the annotated bibliography by the entry date. No hard copy print-outs of the web site are required. Judges will individually or in groups evaluate the web sites prior to the contest date. They will interview the students at the contest to discuss their evaluation with the students.

Web Sites

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. To produce a web site, you must have access to appropriate software and equipment and be able to operate it.

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

Rule 1: 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. The word limit does not include words found in materials used for illustration such as documents, artifacts or graphs not created by the student, or quotations from primary sources such as oral history interviews, letters, or diaries, photos of artifacts with writing, or other illustrative materials such as reoccurring menus, titles and navigation

instructions that are used as an integral part of the web site.

Brief text crediting the sources of illustrations or quotations included on the web site do not count toward the 1,200-word limit. The entire site, including all multimedia, may use up to 100MB of file space.

Rule 2: 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 3: Multimedia

Each multimedia clip may not last more than 45 seconds and may not include student-composed narration. There is no limit to the number of multimedia clips other than the file size limit. Voiceover of material not composed by students is allowed. If an entry uses any form of multimedia requiring a plug-in (for example, Flash, QuickTime or Real Player), you must provide on the same page a link to an Internet site where the plug-in 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 4: Entry Production

All entries must be original productions. 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 5: Bibliographic Sources

The annotated bibliography must be included as an integrated part of the web site. It should be included in the navigational structure and does 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 may not 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 (i.e. Microsoft Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari). Students are responsible for ensuring that the entry is viewable in multiple web browsers. Entries may not link to live or external sites, except to direct viewers to plug-ins.

Rule 8: File Safety

Entries that contain potentially harmful file contamination (e.g. a virus) are subject to disqualification.

Rule 9: Submitting Entry for Judging

Students will submit their projects for advance viewing by judges by uploading them to a specified URL. ONE CD-R with the student's web site will be submitted along with FOUR hard copies of the process paper and the annotated bibliography by the entry date. CD-R must be labeled only with the student's name, division, and entry title; decorations or illustrations are not appropriate.

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").