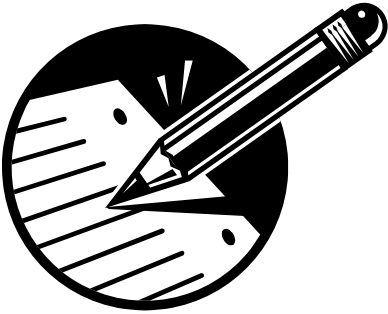


# CATEGORY: RESEARCH PAPER



The process of the research paper is similar to the writing of articles and books by college professors. Throughout your schooling, you will be expected to write research papers.

A research paper requires three basic steps.

1. Collection of information
2. Organization of information
3. Presentation of the topic in an interesting way

There are many books available on how to write research papers and you may find it helpful to look at one or more of them before you begin. Ask your history or English teacher to suggest some useful guides. Here are some of the most common questions about research papers:

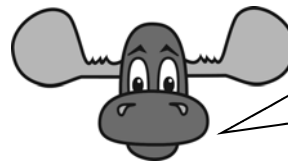
## What is a footnote?

Footnotes are explanations provided by writers about ideas or quotations presented in the paper are not their own. Footnotes not only give credit to the originators of ideas, but also serve as “evidence” in support of your ideas. Usually footnotes occur in three situations:

1. **Quoting a Primary Source:** An example of this would be including a selection from a speech or interview.
2. **Quoting a Secondary Source:** If you take a direct quotation from someone’s book, you must footnote it.
3. **Paraphrasing a Secondary Source:** Even if you change an author’s ideas into your own words, you must footnote where you found this information.

## How long does this paper have to be?

History Day papers are 1,500 to 2,500 words in length (approx. 6-10 pages). Each word or number in the text counts as one word. The word limit does not apply to: notes, annotated bibliography, illustration captions, and supplemental appendix materials.



Quotations count towards the word limit in research papers!

## Must the paper be typed?

No, but typing is always best, and you may have someone type your paper for you.

Be sure to refer to your Contest Rule Book for more information about title pages, footnote style, and entry requirements.

NHD NATIONAL HISTORY DAY		EXHIBIT											
JUDGING CRITERIA	EVALUATION	COMMENTS											
* Strengths * Areas for improvement													
<b>Historical Quality (60%)</b> * Entry is historically accurate * Shows analysis and interpretation * Places topic in historical context * Shows wide research * Uses available primary sources * Research is balanced	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5							
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<b>Relation to Theme (20%)</b> * Clearly relates topic to theme * Demonstrates significance of topic in history and draws conclusions	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5							
1	2	3	4	5									
<b>Clarity of Presentation (20%)</b> * Entry is organized, well written, appropriate and engaging * Entry is organized, well visual, correctly uses maps, photos, etc.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5							
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<b>Rules Compliance</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No										
Yes	No												
* Meets size requirement (8 1/2" x 11") * Meets design maximum time limit (2 minutes) * Meets word limit (2500 words) * Includes annotated bibliography * 100%													

## Evaluating History Day Projects

At all levels of History Day competitions, judges are looking at the following criteria, which heavily focuses on the history behind your project.

- **60% Historical Quality:** Historical accuracy, analysis and interpretation, historical context, wide research, uses available primary sources, research is balanced.
- **20% Connection to Theme:** Clearly relates topic to theme, demonstrates significance of topic in history, draws conclusions.
- **20% Clarity of Presentation:** Uses the category effectively to explain ideas.
- **Rules Compliance:** Project follows general guidelines for History Day as well as category-specific rules.