

## Presentation & Project Categories 2023-2024

Dear Parent or Guardian –

Students will choose one of five different History Day categories to share their work:

- **Exhibit:** Like a museum, but smaller. Usually on tri-fold cardboard. Includes 500 student-composed words, supporting quotes, and illustrations.
- **Website:** A digital presentation. Includes up to 1,200 student-composed words, plus supporting quotes, illustrations, and multimedia. Students must use the free NHD Website Editor to create a website.
- **Paper:** Written essay. Includes 1,500-2,500 total words. Individual entries only. No group papers are allowed in National History Day.
- **Performance:** Ten minute dramatic, live presentation. Includes characters, a script, and props.
- **Documentary:** Ten minute media presentation. Includes pictures, videos, illustrations, interviews, music, and student-composed narration.

Students should think about their topic and personal strengths before they pick a category.

- **Topic:** Sometimes topics work better in certain categories. For example, a topic that took place in ancient history may not have enough illustrations for a documentary.
- **Strengths:** Understanding personal strengths will also help a student to select a category. For example: Documentaries or websites are great for students who enjoy technology.

There is no magic formula for a History Day project. A good project will have high quality research behind it. A good project will be easy to understand. You can look at sample projects at [mnhs.org/historyday/categories/sample-projects](https://mnhs.org/historyday/categories/sample-projects).

### A Parent/Guardian's Role

Project construction can be overwhelming. This may be the largest project a student has ever created. How can you help?

- Help **manage project deadlines**. History Day isn't a project your student will finish in one day.
- Do things that could be **dangerous** for your child to do on their own. For example: Parents may operate power tools.
- Give **technical advice** when you can. For example, students may not know how to resize images or save files for a website.

### Do we need to spend a lot of money?

National History Day is about history. We want to see students use their projects to explain and prove their ideas.

You don't need to spend a lot of money to do this! The NHD Website Editor is free. Borrow props from friends or school for performances. There may be documentary software already on your home or school computer. A cardboard exhibit works just as well as a wood frame.

Thank you for supporting your student as they create a History Day project! You can learn more about History Day by visiting our website, [www.mnhs.org/historyday](https://www.mnhs.org/historyday).



Sammi Jo Papas  
Program Manager and State Co-Coordinator  
National History Day in Minnesota  
samantha.papas@mnhs.org