NHD 2027 Category Guidelines – Paper

Bucks Mont Regional National History Day Contest

For the 2027 Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest, all student paper projects will be submitted **virtually** and must follow the guidelines detailed below.

Paper Category

A paper is a written format for presenting the historical argument, research, and interpretation of the topic's significance in history.

All student submissions will be judged on Historical Quality (80%) & Clarity of Presentation (20%)

- **Historical Quality:** This section focuses on the strengths of the historical argument, research, and relationship to the year's designated theme.
- **Clarity of Presentation:** This section evaluates how well the project communicates the argument using the tools of the category.

Rules for Student Papers

Please make sure to read your category's full rules in the official National History Day contest rule book prior to referring to the specific highlighted helpful guidelines.

1. Paper Elements
    - Papers must be the original creation of the student.
    - Papers must represent the student's historical research and analysis.
    - Papers must be grammatically correct.
    - Papers must conform to all general and category rules.
2. Length Requirements
    - Papers must contain between 1,500 and 2,500 words.
    - Each word or number in the text of the paper counts as one word.
    - The following words count toward the overall word count:
        - Text that the student writes, including captions, and words in footnotes/endnotes/internal documentation other than the citation.
        - Quotes from any sources whether primary or secondary.
    - The following words **do not** count toward the overall word count:
        - Title page
        - Process paper
        - Annotated bibliography
        - Footnote/endnote/internal documentation **citations only**
        - Primary source materials in appendices
    - If relevant images, maps, graphs, or primary source materials must be included, they must be placed in appendices, referenced in the text of the paper, and cited in the annotated bibliography. Use of appendices must be limited.

3. Citations
    - Citations are used to credit the sources of specific ideas and direct quotations.
    - Papers must use footnotes, endnotes, or internal documentation for citations.
    - Papers must use either the Chicago Manual of Style or the MLA Handbook.
4. All student papers must include the following written materials in this order:
    - **Title Page** – the title page must include **only** the title of the entry, name of student, contest division and category, and applicable word count.
    - **Process Paper** – the process paper must be 500 words or fewer and must not include quotes, images, or captions. Your process paper must answer the following questions:
        1. How did you choose your topic and how does it relate to the annual theme?
        2. How did you conduct your research?
        3. How did you create your project?
        4. What is your historical argument?
        5. In what ways is your topic significant in history?
    - **Student Paper**
    - **Annotated Bibliography** – the annotated bibliography must list all sources that were consulted in the creation of the entry, must be sorted in primary and secondary sources, and must combine photos or other materials from the same collection into a single citation. Each annotation must be no more than two or three sentences and should explain the following:
        1. How you used the source
        2. How the source helped you to understand the topic
5. Preparation Requirements
    - Papers must be formatted as an 8.5 x 11-inch document with 12-point font and 1-inch margins on all sides.
    - Pages must be numbered consecutively and double-spaced.
    - Papers and required written materials must be combined and submitted as **one PDF file** and named with the following file naming protocols:
        - Name the PDF file as your last name and project title (i.e. LastName_ProjectTitle.pdf).

Paper Category- Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest Submission Requirements

All required materials must be submitted to the Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest website between Monday, January 4, 2027 @ 9:00 am and **Tuesday, February 16, 2027 @ 5:00 pm.**

1. Make sure you have registered and created a student login at the Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest website. Please note that your teacher must also be registered before you can register or submit your project.
2. Log in to your student account on the Bucks Mont Regional NHD Contest website.
3. In the top right corner, click on your name and select "My Profile."
4. Click the "Entry" tab at the top of the page.
5. On the "Entry" tab, click the button that reads "Add File" to upload the PDF file with all required materials.
6. Always remember to click "Save" before exiting this page.
7. You may delete and re-upload your project as many times as you like until the deadline on **Tuesday, February 16, 2027 @ 5:00 pm.** It is your responsibility to ensure your project is in the system by that time. No exceptions will be made.

For more information, please contact historyday@mercermuseum.org