NHD 2027 Category Guidelines – Performance

Bucks Mont Regional National History Day Contest

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

Exhibit category entries will present their work in person at Delaware Valley University on **Sunday, March 21, 2027**. All categories will have interviews with volunteer judges that day.

Performance Category

A performance is a dramatic portrayal of 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.

General Rules for Student Performances

Please make sure to read your category's full section in the official National History Day contest rule book for a full and complete explanation of these rules.

1. Performance Elements
   - Performances must be an original production and must be performed live.
   - Performances must be scripted, based on research, and should have dramatic appeal.
   - Performances must conform to all general and category rules.
2. Time Requirements
   - Performances may not exceed ten minutes in length. Timing starts at the beginning of the performance following the performance introduction.
3. Performance Introduction
   - The performance introduction must state **only** the title of the performance and student name(s) before the start of the performance.
4. Script and Interaction
   - Scripts must not be given to judges or attached to the required written materials.
   - During the performance, students may not interact with or require participation by the audience.
5. Costumes and Props
   - Students may have assistance in producing the costume or props, but the design, choice of fabrics, etc. must be their own.
   - Costumes are permitted to be purchased or rented.

6. Video Submission Requirements
    - All performances must be recorded live for final submission.
    - All performances should be recorded in one take. This means that students cannot edit multiple clips that were previously recorded together or edit in digital effects of any kind.
    - All performances can be filmed using a digital DSLR camera, video camera, smartphone, or any online conferencing platform that does recordings. Examples of online conferencing platforms are Google Meet, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams.
    - In the performance recordings, students can utilize their backgrounds and props and wear any relevant costumes.
    - Any audio recordings, music, or media must be present in the live recording as part of the performance. Audio cannot be added in later.
7. All student performances, in addition to the performance file, must also include the following written materials in this order:
    - **Title Page** – the title page must include **only** the title of the entry, name of student(s), 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?
    - **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
8. Preparation Requirements
    - All performance video submissions must be saved as an .mp4 file.
        - Name the video file as your last name and project title (i.e. LastName_ProjectTitle.mp4).
        - If you are doing a group project, include all your group members' last names then the project title (ie.LastName1LastName2_ProjectTitle.mp4).
    - Save your required written materials as a PDF file.
        - Name the file with your written materials as your last name and project title (i.e. LastName_ProjectTitle.pdf).
        - If you are doing a group project, include all your group members' last names, then the project title (ie.LastName1LastName2_ProjectTitle.pdf).

Performance 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. Next to "Written Materials" click the button that reads "Add File" to upload the PDF file with all required written materials.
6. Next to "Add mp4 Video File" click the button that reads "Add File" to upload the .mp4 file with your performance video submission.
7. Always remember to click "Save" before exiting this page.
8. 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