NHD 2027 Category Guidelines – Website

Bucks Mont Regional National History Day Contest

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

Website Category

A website is a collection of interconnected web pages that uses multimedia to communicate 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 Websites

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. Website Elements
   - Websites must be an original production.
   - Websites must reflect students' ability to use website design software and technology.
   - To construct a website, students must have access to the internet and appropriate software and equipment.
   - Websites must conform to all general and category rules.
2. Entry Creation
   - Websites must be constructed using the official NHD website editor – NHDWebCentral™
     - Make sure to consult the NHDWebCentral™ Instructions for details about navigating the website editor and utilizing the design tools.
   - Each student website will be assigned a unique URL formatted with like the following example: http://site.nhd.org/**12345678**
     - The unique 8-digit website site key (the last 8 numbers of the URL) should be noted and retained by students as it will be needed for their final submission.
   - Students may use professional photographs, graphics, video, recorded music, etc. within the site. Such items must be integrated into the website and must be credited within the site and cited in the annotated bibliography.
   - Students must operate all software and equipment in developing the website.
   - All pages must be interconnected with navigational links.
3. Size Requirements

- Website entries may contain no more than 1,200 visible words that students write.
- The following words count toward the overall word count:
    - Text that the student writes, including captions, graphs, timelines, multimedia, etc.
- The following words **do not** count toward the overall word count:
    - Code used to build the site and alternate text tags on images (if used)
    - Required source credits
    - Recurring menus, titles, and navigation instructions
    - Primary or secondary materials or quotes
    - Required home page inclusions
    - Annotated bibliography
    - Process paper

4. Website Home Page
    - One page of the website must serve as the home page.
    - The home page must include the following:
        - Student name(s)
        - Entry title
        - Division and category
        - Number of visible, student-composed words on the website
        - Total length of multimedia (if included)
        - Number of words in the process paper
        - The main menu that directs viewers to the various sections of the site
    - The home page must not include the name of the students' teacher or school.
5. Documents and Multimedia
    - The website may contain multimedia clips (audio, video, or both) that together total no more than three minutes. Included in the three-minute total is any music or song that plays after a page loads.
    - Students may record quotes and primary source materials for dramatic effect, but students may not narrate their own compositions or other explanatory material.
    - If students use any form of multimedia that requires specific software to view (e.g., Flash, QuickTime, Real Player), they must provide on the same page a link to a website where the software is available as a free, secure, and legal download.
    - Students may not use content that is hosted on an external website or link to external websites, other than for specific software download as written above.
    - Judges will make every effort to view all multimedia content, but files that cannot be viewed cannot be evaluated as part of the entry.
6. Crediting Sources
    - All quotes and visual sources (e.g., photographs, paintings, charts, and graphs) must be credited on the website and cited in the annotated bibliography.
    - Students must remove the hyperlink from all URLs listed within a website's on-screen source credit.
    - Source credits do not count toward the word total.
7. Stable Content
    - The content and appearance of a page cannot change when the page is refreshed in the browser. Random text or image generators are not allowed.
8. Viewing Files
    - The pages that comprise the site must be viewable in a recent version of a standard web browser (e.g., Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Google Chrome).
9. All student websites must include the following written materials as integrated parts of the website:

- **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

10. Additional Required Written Materials
    - The annotated bibliography and process paper must be included as an integrated part of the website.
    - Both the annotated bibliography and process paper must be in PDF format.
    - Both the annotated bibliography and process paper must be included in the navigational structure of the website.

Website 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. All required written materials are included on the site, so no additional file uploads are required.
2. To submit your project:
    a. 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.
    b. Log in to your student account on the Bucks Mont Regional NHD Virtual Contest website.
    c. In the top right corner, click on your name and select "My Profile."
    d. Click the "Entry" tab at the top of the page.
    e. Next to "NHDWebCentral Site Key", copy and paste the unique 8-digit website site key received through NHDWebCentral™.
    f. Always remember to click "Save" before exiting this page.
    g. 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