

## **Judging Criteria for Documentaries**

### **Key points to look for when judging the entries**

**Documentaries should present a factual, quality approach to a historical topic. They are not a recording of a performance, speech, or monologue.**

**A. Judging guidelines (see Judging Criteria – Overall)**

Historical Quality (60%), Adherence to Theme (20%), Quality of the Presentation (20%)

**B. Types of Media Allowed include slides, video, film, computer programs and recorded audiotape.**

**C. Project Content**

1. Content should reflect research, understand of topic and relation to History Day theme.
2. Content should be organized, with a clear opening, body and conclusion.
3. Recorded dialog should be used to explore the topic, without requiring explanation by entrant(s).
4. Any multi-media information presented, including pictorial images, animation, simulation, video-clips, recordings, diagrams, links, etc. should suit the development of the topic.
5. Credits for visuals must appear in the footage.

**D. Project Presentation**

1. Visuals and layout should be varied and interesting, revealing careful planning and preparation.
2. Presentation should be visually pleasing i.e. not too busy or vivid.
3. Sound (recorded dialog/music) should be clear and audible
4. Technological understand of the media format should be evident

**E. Conforms to Specific Project Rules**

1. Presentation lasts up to ten minutes. Additional set-up and removal time of five minutes each is allotted for each entry
2. Student(s) must operate all required equipment.
3. Project title and visual source list must be included in the presentation.
4. All content, including images, video, music, etc. must be documented in the presentation.
5. Project must be accompanied by a process paper of no more than 500 words. Paper must include a title page, an explanation of how the research was conducted and developed into the entry, an explanation of how the project relates the History Day theme and a completed annotated bibliography split into sections by primary and secondary sources.
6. Project may also contain visual credits.
7. No live narration is allowed, except for introduction of title and participants

**E. Suggested Interview Questions**

1. Why did you choose this topic and style of delivery?
2. How did you locate your visuals, you interviewees?
3. After your research, did you find that you had misconceptions? If so, what were they?  
Have you changed your thinking about the subject?
4. What were the greatest problems in developing your entry?
5. Besides the local library, what places, organization, etc. did you use for information?
6. What did you gain from doing this project
7. If a group project: How did you select the members and divide the work? What did you learn about working in a group?
8. **Ask specific questions on content.**