

Judging Criteria for Historical Papers

Key points to look for when judging the entries

A. Judging Guidelines (see Judging Criteria – Overall)

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

B. Types of Papers – all should be based on documented historical facts and well organized, with clearly delineated focus and development

1. Formal Research Paper
2. Diary
3. Fictional Account
4. Poetry

C. Content

1. Thesis/Topic and relation to theme should be clearly defined and developed
2. Content should reflect research, understanding of topic, and relation to theme.
3. Should be well organized, with clear introduction, body and summarizing conclusion
4. Good use of supporting information, including quotations, statistics, specific examples, etc.
5. Paper must stand alone, without need of appendix information
6. If presenting a specific point of view or “bias”, it is clearly substantiated. Opposing view(s) is addressed and/or refuted
7. Mechanics of writing should be good.
8. “Unusual” or “Original” subject, primary research, dept of research should add points
9. “Unusual” or “Original” presentation should add points but deficiencies in research, integration with them and mechanics of writing should not be overlooked.

D. Conforms to Specific Project Rules

1. Typed or neatly handwritten on 8 ½ by 11 paper with one inch margins
2. 1,500 – 2,500 words, excluding foot/end notes, bibliography, and title page
3. Stapled in left hand corner
4. MLA or Turabian style bibliography, end/footnotes
5. Illustrative Information: Photos, maps, charts placed in separate appendix
6. Annotated Bibliography
7. Correct title page – Title, Name, Division, Category **ONLY** – no pictures, borders, colors, etc.

E. Suggested Interview Questions

1. Why did you choose this topic?
2. Why did you choose a paper rather than media, performance, or project?
3. Why did you choose the format (if other than formal paper)?
4. After your research, did you find that you had misconceptions? If so, what were they?
5. Has studying this topic changed your thinking about the subject?
6. What were the greatest problems in developing your entry?
7. Were the sources readily available? What sources did you use and where did you locate them?
8. What did you learn from using primary sources?
9. What did you gain from doing this project?

10. Ask specific questions on content