

Judging Criteria for Performances

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 Performance: Can be any oral presentation delivered in front of an audience

1. Dramatization
2. Oration, dramatic reading
3. Pantomime, puppet show

C. Content

1. Historical content and relation to theme must be clear. Great delivery and /or staging is not enough,
2. Clear, precise delivery, characterized by good timing, speed, and expression
3. Well-rehearsed and smooth
4. Costuming and/or staging should be period appropriate
5. Any media aids, including music, slides, etc., should be integrated with content, an effective adjunct but not central focus

D. Conforms to Specific Rules

1. Length of performance cannot exceed 10 minutes. Students are allowed an additional 5 minutes to set up and 5 minutes take down time.
2. Performers must supply and operate all props and/or equipment.
3. 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. 1-2 page Process Paper of no more than 500 words explaining the development of the entry and research methods. Correct title page.

E. Suggested Interview Questions

1. Why did you choose this topic and style of delivery?
2. How was the script written?
3. Why did you choose the props you used?
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. If a group project – How did you select the members and divide the work? What did you learn about working in a group?

11. Ask specific questions on content