

Riverside County History Day Orientation
September 9, 2015
Meeting Notes

Any questions regarding these notes may be addressed to
Tracey Case, (951) 826-6570, tcase@rcoe.us

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Self introductions were made. Tracey introduced Barb Libolt who will once again serve as a consultant working with judges and the content area as it relates to History Day. Jennifer Albin from the National Archives was introduced.
- **What is History Day?** – History Day is a Common Core State Standards-aligned program that gives students the opportunity to learn historical content and develop research, thinking, and communication skills through the study of history. Barb provided examples of how History Day relates directly to Common Core.
- **History of History Day** – History Day began in 1974. The first national competition was in 1980 and in 1983, California had their first State History Day.
- **Categories of Competition** – There are various categories that students may enter in the competition. In the Junior Division (grades 6-8) and Senior Division (grades 9-12), students may enter either a Historical Paper, Documentary, Website, Performance or Exhibit. Grades 4-5 may enter a 2-D Display. Students may enter as an individual or group (2-5 students), except for the Historical Paper category which is individuals only.
- **Theme** – The 2016 NHD theme is “Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History”. When students are deciding on their topic, it does not need to address all three “E’s”. Please refer to the NHD themesheet: http://media.wix.com/ugd/189c6c_45796f32d2fc42b7ae241ddb8e868c29.pdf

NHD has also published a theme book that is available for purchase or electronic download. To access the book:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/189c6c_e122d3d6d2994b0a8d74b20628a498d8.pdf.

- **Levels of Competition** – There are various levels of competition, including classroom (winners advance to school site), school site (winners advance to district), district (winners advance to county), county (each district may send 3 entries per division/category), state (county winners advance to state – top 3 placers in Grades 4/5 and Senior division, and top 2 placers in Junior division), Nationals (top two in Junior and Senior divisions advance to Nationals; Grades 4/5 do not advance to Nationals).
- **Student Benefits** – Students participating in History Day develop research skills by identifying primary and secondary sources, learn to analyze and interpret information, draw their own conclusions, learn how to create annotated bibliographies, develop college and career readiness skills including writing, editing, interviewing, teamwork, and public speaking, and are able to show their creativity by selecting which type of entry to enter into the competition.

- **History Day Process** – To select a topic, students should first come up with an idea/topic, make sure there are adequate resources available for research, then determine their project idea. Reliable resources should be used.
- **Rewards for Participation** – Common Core skills and knowledge are acquired including research, writing, and communication skills. At the various levels of competition, there are opportunities for certificates of recognition, special awards, medals, and ultimately the chance to compete at the National competition.
- **Judging Criteria** – History Day judging is based on the following criteria: Adherence to theme (20%), research including historical quality (60%), and clarity of presentation (20%). The theme should clearly link the topic to the theme at the local, state, U.S., or world history level. The entry should demonstrate the topic's significance in history. Sample scoresheets can be found in the NHD-CA rulebook: <http://www.rcoe.us/student-events/files/2014/06/2016-History-Day-rulebook.pdf>
- **Selecting a Topic** – It is important to select a good topic with good sources for research. Students should ask themselves does it fit this year's theme? Does the topic interest me? Will I be able to find sources to document the topic? And why is the topic important in history? The topic should be narrowed now from a general topic, i.e., *U.S. Space Program to Exploration of the Moon*, to *Apollo 13*.
- **Historical Quality** – The historical quality is 60% of the score. This includes historical accuracy, historical context, balanced and wide research. Evidence of wide, varied research means reading a variety of materials, primary and secondary books, journal articles, and historical newspapers. Students should do active research and visit museums, historical sites, historical societies, archives, and universities. Interviews of primary and secondary sources should be held.
- **Analyzing and Interpreting** – When creating the entry, students should determine what was happening in history before and at the time of the person/idea/event/issue and what led up to the topic. They should identify factors that contributed to the development of the topic and identify how the topic altered history and what changes did the topic bring about. They should address how the topic affected individuals, communities, nations, or the world, and the significance over time. Students also should determine why was the event unique.
- **Thesis Statement and Title** – The thesis statement is the central thought that holds the entry together. Thesis = Topic + Stand + Theme + Impact. The title should explain immediately what the topic is and give a clue about the student's point of view on the topic. The words in the theme should be included in the title (i.e., exploration, encounter, exchange).
- **Written Requirement** – Each entry must be accompanied by a process paper, except the Historical Paper entries. Refer to the NHD-CA rulebook for specific requirements and samples: <http://www.rcoe.us/student-events/files/2014/06/2016-History-Day-rulebook.pdf>

- **Clarify of Presentation** – The clarity of presentation is 20% of the judges’ score. This includes clarity, organization, creativity, appropriateness of historical materials, props, etc., and presentation/performance quality.
- **Historical Paper, Exhibit, Performance, Documentary, Website, 2-D Display** – In conjunction with the information on the slides presented, please refer to the NHD-CA rulebook at the following link: <http://www.rcoe.us/student-events/files/2014/06/2016-History-Day-rulebook.pdf>. The rulebook provides detailed information about each category with specific guidelines and requirements for each. NOTE: For Websites: students must use Weebly provided through NHD to complete their entry. To access Weebly: <http://www.nhd.org/entering-contest/creating-an-entry/website/>.
- **Important Dates** – For a complete list of dates, forms, etc., please refer to this link: <http://www.rcoe.us/student-events/history-day/>.
 - November 7, 2015 – Research Day at UCR. More information to follow on the day; sponsored by National Archives, students, parents, and teachers will be able to attend various sessions and meet with archivists.
 - February 1, 2016 – District competitions must be complete.
 - February 12, 2016 – Registration deadline. Complete registration includes the following:
 - District registration form: <http://www.rcoe.us/student-events/files/2014/06/2016-HD-district-registration-form.pdf>
 - Payment of \$50 for each student participating.
 - Entry registration form: <http://www.rcoe.us/student-events/files/2014/06/2016-HD-entry-registration-form.pdf>. One form per entry should be submitted (*correction from meeting; if a group entry, only one entry form needs to be submitted*).
 - Student participation form: <http://www.rcoe.us/student-events/files/2014/06/2016-HD-student-participation-form.pdf>
 - February 22, 2016 – Historical paper due in PDF format and websites locked.
 - March 12, 2016 – Riverside County History Day Competition, Arlington High School. County-to-state winners meeting held immediately following awards ceremony.
 - May 6-7, 2016 – NHD-CA State Competition, Rocklin, California.
 - June, 2016 – NHD National Competition, University of Maryland.
- **Resources** - Sample projects, ideas, topics can be found at:
 - www.nhd.org
 - www.nhd.ca.org
- **National Archives** – Jennifer Albin provided information regarding what is available at the National Archives in Perris. To email an archivist to assist with research, the address is riverside.archives@nara.gov. Their website is: <http://www.archives.gov/riverside/nhd-students/index.html>. Valuable information can be found by visiting their website and making a visit to speak with an archivist. Jennifer requested that students email prior to going to visit so that the archivist can gather preliminary information to assist the student.