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# National History Day

Shakopee High School  
Shakopee West Middle School  
Shakopee East Middle School

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# General Information

National History Day is an interdisciplinary research project for students in grades 6-12. History Day teaches students to:

- Conduct in-depth research
- Use primary and secondary sources
- Read a variety of texts
- Analyze and synthesize information
- Write and present historical content

Students choose a topic that relates to an annual theme, research that topic, and present their research in one of five presentation categories:

Research Paper, Exhibit, Documentary, Performance, or Website.

Students may then enter their projects into History Day competitions at school, regional, state, and national levels.

The logo for National History Day, featuring the letters 'NHD' in a large, bold, black serif font. Below 'NHD' is a thick red horizontal bar. Underneath the bar, the words 'NATIONAL' and 'HISTORY DAY' are written in a smaller, black, all-caps serif font, with 'NATIONAL' on the top line and 'HISTORY DAY' on the bottom line. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the end of 'DAY'.

# Get started

## Choose your topic:

Seriously ANYTHING historical that fits the annual theme: you can geek out over the launch of the 1954 Russian Sputnik Satellite, the sparking point of assisted suicide with Jack Kevorkian, the fall of the Berlin Wall, or the history of filmmaking in Minnesota. From a STEM to an Arts to a political perspective, ANY topic that interest you can become a great project.



## Research:

Start with secondary sources, reading what other historians have found out about the topic. Then transition to primary- collect newspapers, photos, oral histories, interviews, broadcasts, journal entries, etc. Depending on your topic's time period, you can set interviews with people who were involved with the event.

History Day also allows students to network with local professors and historians. Reach out to experts on your topic and ask them for interviews, research assistance, or more. By the end of your research, YOU will also be an expert with your topic



## Select a Contest Category:

There are 6 creative categories for projects: the documentary, exhibit, performance, website, and podcast categories offer both individual and group participation options. The paper category allows individual participation only. Groups may include two to five students. More details on next slide



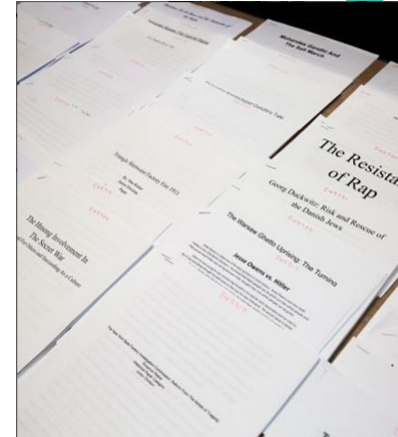
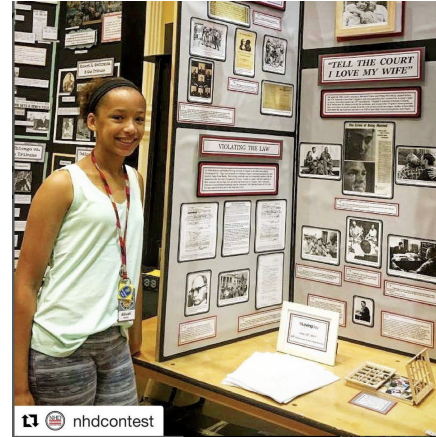
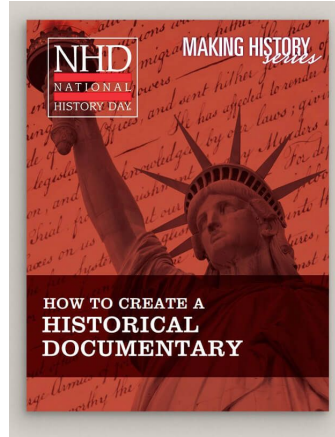
## Write your Process Paper and Bibliography

All NHD projects have two required elements in common—a process paper and an annotated bibliography.

# The Different Project Categories

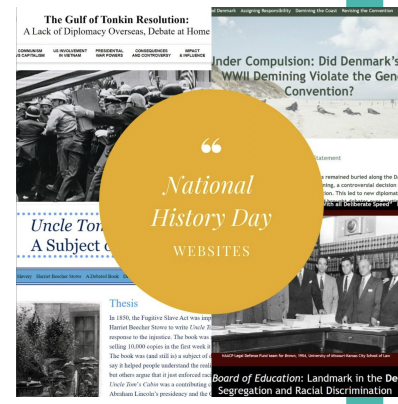
- ➔ Documentary
- ➔ Exhibit
- ➔ Paper
- ➔ Performance
- ➔ Website

New in 2025-Podcasts!



For more details on each category, visit <https://nhd.org/en/contest/get-started/>

There is a category and style for EVERYONE



# Why Join?

Besides gaining **AMAZING** college-level research skills, exploring a topic you're genuinely **passionate** about, and learning LIFE SKILLS as you create your final project, **join History Day** because...

- **Looks GREAT on College Applications**- Colleges love seeing **self-initiated research** outside of the classroom, and simple participation in **NHD Contest is highly regarded**, especially for competitive schools.
- **Networking**- History Day research allows you to reach out to **professors and experts** in your topic field and you can not only geek out with them on the different proxy wars between the US and the Soviet Union, but also gain their **valuable mentorship and insights**
- **PRIZES** range anywhere from **state and regional recognition** to **prize money to full scholarships**.
- You create a project that **belongs SOLELY to you**. **Your History Day project will mean something to you on a MUCH PERSONAL level**
- It's extremely **FUN** to do academic related things without school pressure, and **dive without limits into areas you love**



If you love history, JOIN our club! And if you don't, still, join our club!

# Contact Information

- First meeting: Tuesday, September 30 at 3:05 in Room S320 at the high school.
- We will meet for official meetings on Tuesdays from 3:05-4 and Thursdays are optional (office hours) from 3:05-4.
- Contact Mr. Fish ([jfish@shakopeeschools.org](mailto:jfish@shakopeeschools.org)) or Shaunya Kumar ([311082@shakopeeschools.org](mailto:311082@shakopeeschools.org)) for more information!

# National Contest 2025!

