

## National History Day – Information Sheet – Mrs. West

### RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH!

You must complete your research first. It must be complete and detailed. There must be a variety of sources; both primary and secondary. You will visit a library. You will complete an interview and explain photographs. You will look at documents and possibly visit a museum. You will NOT just use Google!! ☺

Sources – from: <http://www.princeton.edu/~refdesk/primary2.html>

A primary source is a document or physical object which was written or created during the time under study. These sources were present during an experience or time period and offer an inside view of a particular event. Some types of primary sources include:

- ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS (excerpts or translations acceptable): Diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records
- CREATIVE WORKS: Poetry, drama, novels, music, art
- RELICS OR ARTIFACTS: Pottery, furniture, clothing, buildings

Examples of primary sources include:

- Diary of Anne Frank - Experiences of a Jewish family during WWII
- The Constitution of Canada - Canadian History
- Weavings and pottery - Native American history
- Plato's Republic - Women in Ancient Greece

What is a secondary source?

A secondary source interprets and analyzes primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event. Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources in them. Some types of secondary sources include:

- PUBLICATIONS: Textbooks, magazine articles, histories, criticisms, commentaries, encyclopedias

Examples of secondary sources include:

- A journal/magazine article which interprets or reviews previous findings
- A history textbook
- A book about the effects of WWI

### Annotated Bibliography:

All sources MUST be cited, annotated and divided into primary and secondary categories.

### Theme

This year's theme is "Rights and Responsibilities" - you must prove how your topic fits into the category. Both the words rights and responsibilities should be in your thesis statement. A theme sheet is included.

### **Three competition categories**

You may already know which category you would like to enter. You may already know if you want to work alone or with a partner or with a group. You will decide early if you have a partner or not; your competition category does not yet have to be decided. You must research first!! That will be our initial focus. The visual will be done later in the school year.

Information from [www.ndh.org](http://www.ndh.org) :

**Web site:** A historical web site is a collection of web pages, interconnected with hyperlinks, that presents primary and secondary sources, interactive multimedia, and historical analysis. Your web site should be an accumulation of research and argument that incorporates textual and non-textual (photographs, maps, music, etc.) description, interpretation, and multimedia sources to engage and inform viewers about your chosen historical topic.

**Historical performance:** A performance is a live, dramatic presentation of your topic's significance in history. You may perform individually or as part of a group. A performance should be a scripted portrayal based on research of your chosen topic. Your script should be structured on a thesis statement, supporting statements, and a conclusion. Your performance should have dramatic appeal, but not at the expense of historical information.

**Historical exhibit:** Historical exhibition presents information about an event, person, place, or idea from the past by physically displaying documents, images, or objects. We often see such exhibits at museums, but they are also presented at many other places such as archives, historic sites, park visitor centers, classrooms, and even airports and train stations. For your National History Day project, you will tell the story of your research through historic photographs, maps, drawings and other interesting objects.

**Process Paper:** Information from [www.ndh.org](http://www.ndh.org) :

A process paper is a description of no more than 500 words explaining how you conducted your research and created and developed your entry. You must conclude your description with an explanation of the relationship of your topic to the contest theme.

A title page is required as the first page of written material in every category. Your title page must include only the title of your entry, your name(s) and the contest division and category in which you are entered. Do not include your age, grade or school name.

The first section should explain how you chose your topic.

The second section should explain how you conducted your research.

The third section should explain how you selected your presentation category and created your project.

The fourth section should explain how your project relates to the NHD theme.

### **Individual/Group work:**

Students may work with a partner on a web page or historical exhibit. Groups of up to five students may compete in the performance category. PLEASE CHOOSE CAREFULLY!! We had several issues last year with students that would not and could not work outside of class together. You will spend very little time on this project in class.

### **Links:**

Hopefully you aren't feeling too overwhelmed, but if you are ... there are links on my webpage that will help.

[www.thomas.k12.ga.us](http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us) – teacher web pages – Amanda West – NHD folder

The youtube video I showed in class can also be found here.

I will try my best to help you with your project and to manage your time, but a great deal must be done outside of class.

Students that make an A or B on their NHD assignments and the final project will be allowed to compete at the school contest Feb. 21. The final project will be due Feb. 6/7. Students that place at the school contest will go on to the State NHD contest April 26.