



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY CALIFORNIA • PROJECT RUBRIC

coincides with the NHD-CA Score Sheet

HISTORICAL QUALITY	Thesis (10%)	Presents a claim that synthesizes sources to demonstrate original analysis; includes a deep connection to theme.	Presents a claim that approaches synthesis but might not fully explain how evidence fits together to inform own thinking. Connection to theme may be undeveloped.	Claim might show some analysis. May describe evidence as individual points or may not explain how evidence fits together to inform own thinking. May not connect to theme beyond restatement.	Lacks a claim. Lacks strong connection to theme beyond restatement of words.
	Interpretation and Analysis: (10%)	Clearly connects evidence to establish interpretation. Draws meaning and significance from interpretation to create unified analysis.	Interprets evidence and groups ideas logically. May not provide significance nor unify analysis.	Provides evidence but makes limited interpretations or connections. May either rely on expert analysis or lack student analysis.	Lacks analysis to unify argument. May just report on evidence with no interpretation. May just repeat others' interpretations without support.
	Context (10%)	Includes events and conditions to accurately anchor topic in history. Demonstrates understanding of how historical background affected topic.	Includes most events and conditions to place topic in history. Mostly demonstrates understanding of how historical background affected topic.	Includes some events and conditions to place topic in history. Begins to demonstrate understanding of how historical background affected topic.	Does not place topic accurately within historical context. Needs to demonstrate deeper understanding of how historical background affected topic.
	Accuracy (10%)	Presents accurate historical record supported by appropriate breadth of facts.	Presents historical record but may have small issues with accuracy or breadth.	Several errors in either accuracy or breadth mar the presentation of historical record.	Inaccurate representation of historical record.
	Depth (10%)	Bibliography reflects deep research, including diverse primary and secondary sources necessary to support claim.	Bibliography mostly reflects deep research and includes some diversity in sources to support claim. May need more primary and secondary sources. May not have fully developed all areas of research.	Bibliography demonstrates limited research and needs more sources to support the claim.	Bibliography lacks sources necessary to support a claim and is not able to answer all important aspects of project.
	Multiple Perspectives (10%)	Includes multiple viewpoints. Incorporates different perspectives to advance argument.	More than one viewpoint is present.	Project may be overly dependent on one viewpoint.	No evidence of alternative or opposing perspectives.
RELATION TO THEME	Adherence to Theme (10%)	Demonstrates deep engagement with the theme as explanatory framework for evidence and analysis.	Uses theme to organize evidence. Begins to develop explanatory framework for evidence and analysis but lacks depth.	Applies theme's language without creating explanation. Does not create analysis based on theme.	Connection to theme is unclear.
	Historical Significance & Impact (10%)	Establishes relevance of topic to historical record. Project demonstrates significant legacy of topic and makes broad connections.	Demonstrates that topic has significant legacy. May not demonstrate relevance of topic to historical record.	Attempts to connect topic to historical record and establish significance.	Connection and significance is unclear
ORGANIZATION & VISUAL IMPACT	Organization (10%)	Structures materials through segmentation and orientation to effectively guide the audience to understand claim and focus areas.	Mostly structures materials through segmentation and orientation to guide the audience and develop focus areas.	Attempts to structure organizational support for thesis through segmentation and orientation.	Lacks structure to organize materials to support thesis and does not clarify the ideas.
	Visual Impact: Exhibit (10%)	Successfully utilizes design elements to create visual impact that tells the story and enhances the argument. eg: segmentation, consistent font & color, successful use of space, May include "extras," such as artifacts, interactive elements and eye-poppers to support the argument.	Mostly utilizes design elements to create visual impact that tells the story and supplements the argument. May include most of the following: segmentation, consistent font & color, successful use of space.	Design elements do not support argument. May not be consistent, may not connect to theme, and may not tell a story. eg: missing segmentation, missing consistent font & color, or unsuccessful use of space.	Lack of design elements limits understanding and clarity of argument.



NATIONAL HISTORY DAY CALIFORNIA • PROJECT RUBRIC

coincides with the NHD-CA Score Sheet

ORGANIZATION & VISUAL IMPACT	Visual Impact: Exhibit (10%)	Successfully utilizes design elements to create visual impact that tells the story and enhances the argument. eg: segmentation, consistent font & color, successful use of space, May include “extras,” such as artifacts, interactive elements and eye-poppers to support the argument.	Mostly utilizes design elements to create visual impact that tells the story and supplements the argument. May include most of the following: segmentation, consistent font & color, successful use of space.	Design elements do not support argument. May not be consistent, may not connect to theme, and may not tell a story. eg: missing segmentation, missing consistent font & color, or unsuccessful use of space.	Lack of design elements limits understanding and clarity of argument.
	Visual Impact: Website (10%)	Successfully utilizes design elements to create project that has visual impact with clear navigation. eg: consistent font & color, successful use of space. Utilizes engaging pictures, graphics, and sound or film clips to create interactive experience.	Mostly utilizes design elements to create project that that has visual impact with clear navigation. eg: consistent font & color, successful use of space. May include most of the following to create a mostly interactive experience: engaging pictures, graphics, and sound or film clips.	Design elements do not support argument. May be difficult to navigate. May not be consistent eg: missing segmentation, missing consistent font & color, or unsuccessful use of space. Instead of an interactive experience, uses lengthy or misplaced text.	Lack of design elements limits interactive experience. Lacks navigation system to guide viewer.
	Visual Impact: Paper (10%)	Successfully meets writing conventions, citation rules, and consistent formatting. Demonstrates superior writing skills that engage reader.	Mostly meets writing conventions, citation rules, and consistent formatting. Demonstrates good writing skills with no grammatical errors.	Developing writing skills do not always meet writing conventions, citation rules, and consistent formatting. May have some grammatical errors.	Errors in writing result in a paper that lacks persuasive power and cohesion.
	Visual Impact: Documentary (10%)	Successfully edits sound and visual elements that fluidly connects multiple sources and narration. Documentary creates high-impact visual and sound extras to support cohesive message.	Mostly edits sound and visual elements that fluidly connects multiple sources and narration. Technical errors do not detract from cohesive message.	Project does not fluidly connect multiple sources and narration. Contains technical errors that detract. May include: messy cuts, sound inconsistencies, poor narration.	Contains technical errors that preclude cohesive message.
	Performance (10%)	Successfully utilizes dramatic effects to construct performance that fluidly connects sources, narration, character development and props. Creates unified informative, dramatic experience. Eg: strong storytelling with character and scene development, creative backdrop, sound, images, and props.	Mostly utilizes dramatic effects to construct performance that connects sources, narration, character development and props. Creates dramatic experience but may lack historical connections.	Performance does not fluidly connect multiple sources and narration. May have lapses in memorization, lack successful use of props, or problems with script writing.	Performance needs greater preparation to create informative, unified experience for audience.