





# A Closer Look at History Day Exhibits

A good design doesn't just jazz up your exhibit; it helps express your ideas. Can you guess what this exhibit is about without even reading the text? The cut-out of Rosie the Riveter lets the viewer immediately know the project's topic. The student took the theme a step further by using a red, white, and blue color scheme to convey the patriotic aspects of her topic.



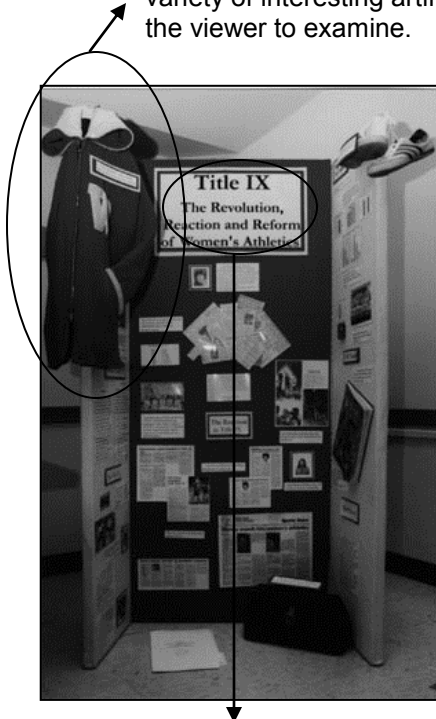
History Day exhibits come in all shapes and sizes, but there are several common characteristics you can see in many good exhibits. Check out these exhibits from other Wisconsin students!

The thesis and main argument are very clear to the viewer in this project. The student used a larger font and a bold border to immediately attract your attention

History Day isn't about glitz. The student has a simple, effective design for a project with a clear argument and solid research.

Photographs, newspapers, and sheet music are just a few of the primary sources that the student was able to incorporate into the project to prove her argument.

This exhibit incorporates a variety of interesting artifacts for the viewer to examine.



The theme for the year this project was created was "Revolution, Reaction, Reform." To show the topic's connection to the theme, the student used words from the theme in the title and section headings.



This project was about the journey that immigrants took through Ellis Island to their new lives in America. To connect the project to the topic, the students used an old suitcase as the frame for their exhibit. They made sure their argument stood out and divided up the space to give the exhibit an organizational structure in the same way they would have if they had used an exhibit board.







# What are the qualities of a good exhibit?

The qualities that a judge is looking for in your NHD exhibit are written right on the evaluation sheet. Listed below are the same criteria judges will use to evaluate your project. After you create your exhibit, go through this list and ask yourself if you've met the criteria or incorporated this information into your project.



## Historical Quality – 80% (At 100%, the historical quality of your exhibit is by far the most important part!)

- My exhibit is historically accurate:** All the information in my exhibit is true to the best of my knowledge.
- I show analysis and interpretation:** My exhibit doesn't just recount facts or tell a story. I interpret and analyze my topic. My exhibit has a strong central thesis or argument that I prove. I can point to where I state my thesis on my exhibit.
- I place my topic in historical context:** My topic didn't take place in isolation. I made sure to place my topic into historical context – the intellectual, physical, social, and cultural setting for my topic.
- My project shows wide, balanced research and I used available primary sources:** These ideas all relate to the research behind your NHD exhibit. Judges will look carefully at your bibliography to learn more about your research process. They want to see that you investigated multiple perspectives about your topic and to see that you looked at all sides of an issue. They are looking for research using both primary and secondary sources and to see that you used a variety of source types.
- I clearly relate my topic to the theme:** My theme connection is clear in my exhibit itself
- I demonstrate the significance of my topic in history and draw conclusions:** My exhibit does more than just describe my topic. I explain why my topic is important in history or demonstrate its significance



## Clarity of Presentation – 20%

- My exhibit and written materials are original, clear, appropriate and organized:** I have an organized and well written project. I was careful to avoid plagiarism and I have double checked spelling and grammar in my exhibit, process paper and bibliography.
- My exhibit is organized, has visual impact, correctly uses maps, photos, etc:** I thought about the overall design and organization to my project. I chose my visual illustrations carefully to help prove my argument. I used colors and fonts that are readable.