**National History Day – Thesis Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Thesis Concept | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Thesis Quality | Thesis is an unfocused grouping of words that do not clearly define the project’s purpose | Thesis, while present may be somewhat unclear or logically inconsistent | Thesis is clear  and logical | Thesis is exceptionally strong, focused, logical and clearly-defined |
| Connection to Theme | Thesis is either not connected to the theme or puts forth a mistaken idea of what the theme means | Student attempts to connect the thesis to the theme, but the connection is not clear and logical | The thesis clearly connects to the theme | The thesis clearly demonstrates a nuanced understanding of all parts of the theme |
| Takes a Position | The thesis offers no analysis, just a report of the facts, which may or may not be accurate | The thesis offers little and/or simplistic analysis that does not extend beyond a surface conception  of the facts | The thesis clearly offers the student’s analysis, which reflects a clear understanding of the facts and draws logical conclusions | The thesis clearly offers the student’s analysis in a way that shows a mastery of the facts and offers a new perspective on the subject matter and its logical conclusions |
| Historical Context | The thesis is completely disconnected from historical events and concepts that occurred before and after this topic | The thesis attempts to connect the topic to events and concepts either before or after the topic, but does not establish a clear connection of cause/effect | The thesis connects the topic to events and concepts either before or after and discusses cause/ effect of these events | The thesis clearly connects the topic to events and concepts both before and after and effectively discusses cause/ effect of these events |
| Totals  Comments |  |  |  |  |

Random Lake Social Studies Department, Revised 2008.