STUDENT CHEAT SHEET

FIND OUR COMPLETE STUDENT GUIDE ONLINE!

HOW TO DO NHD

You're in for an adventure! This is your chance to be a historian and investigate something you want to learn more about. Here's how to start:

1. Figure out if you are working by yourself or in a group.
2. Look at examples online. Get inspired!
3. Pay attention to your deadlines—stay on track!
4. Keep an open mind and be persistent! You never know what you can find or what is right around the corner.

"This isn't a normal history project. You need to put in 100% effort."

"My advice would be not to fall behind and follow deadlines because it makes it so much easier."

THEME

Each year there is a new theme so you can think about a historical event in a new way! Use theme language throughout your whole project.

Examples of themes are:
⇨ Leadership and Legacy in History
⇨ Turning Points in History

Go to nhd.org/themebook or visit wisconsinhistory.org/nhd to learn more!

"Don't leave it until the last minute. You really can't just wing it."

"Pick a topic you really love and can relate to. If you do this, all the research and work you put into your project will feel much more fun, engaging, and worthwhile."

TOPIC CHOICE

Projects can be on local, national, or international topics.

Find a list of topics:
⇨ In the annual theme guide.
⇨ On NHD in WI website.

We recommend picking topics or events that:
⇨ You are interested in learning more about!
⇨ Aren't biographies. A topic that is broader than one person.
⇨ You won't get tired of mid-way through.
⇨ Over 20 years ago so you can know more about its impact.

CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS!

Email us at
historyday@wisconsinhistory.org

Find out more at
wisconsinhistory.org/nhd

RESEARCH
⇨ Start with *secondary sources* (books, websites or anything not from the time of the event).
- Search Wikipedia! Don't use it as a source, but use it to learn background information.
- Look at authors' bibliographies; see where they got their research and go from there.

⇨ Find *primary sources* (diaries, photos, newspapers or anything created at the time).
- You don't have to physically touch a source to cite it! You just have to be able to read it fully—like the Declaration of Independence.

⇨ If you get stuck, don't get discouraged! Ask your teacher or librarian for help.

⇨ Keep track of your sources! Write down all the information you will need to cite it *and* how the source helped you. This will save you time when making your annotated bibliography.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT
This is what was happening before and after your topic. For example, you can't talk about the Civil War without talking about slavery.
⇨ Historical context will help you analyze why and how your topic matters in history.
⇨ Adding this will help your audience, too.
⇨ You will be evaluated on it at contests!

BIAS AND BALANCE
Sometimes an author's opinion influences a source. That is not always bad! But, consider it when analyzing your source.
⇨ Why would sources disagree?
⇨ Are there different sides to this issue?
If there are multiple perspectives, include them in your project. What do you think about this issue?

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
Bibliographies are to historians as lab reports are to scientists—it's how we show our work! Be sure you:
⇨ Divide sources by primary and secondary.
⇨ Use MLA or Chicago citation styles.
⇨ Track sources early and often!
⇨ Include how the source helped you in your annotation.

PROJECT TYPES
How do you want to show your work?
⇨ Documentary – 10 minutes
⇨ Exhibit – 500 word maximum
⇨ Paper –2,500 word maximum
⇨ Performance – 10 minutes
⇨ Website – 1,200 word maximum
Get creative and pick something you are good at! Think carefully about whom you work with and your strengths.

THESIS STATEMENTS
⇨ *Make it an argument.* Save the facts for later in your project.
⇨ *Answer "so what?"* Let your reader know why this matters.
⇨ *Use theme language*!
⇨ *Be patient*, keep revising and it will come to you.

CONTESTS
Competition is optional, but here are some details if you are interested in showcasing your project to the public.
⇨ You are interviewed by 2-3 history enthusiasts about your research and how you developed your project.
⇨ These judges will evaluate your project along with several others and give you feedback.
⇨ You can travel!
- Regional Contests – several across the state
- State Contest – University of Wisconsin – Madison
- National Contest – Washington D.C.