

Father Andrew White School
History Fair 2019 - 2020
How To Sheet
"Breaking Barriers in History"

A thesis statement is a statement that makes a claim about your topic. It also tells the reader how you have chosen to interpret your topic. For example, Thomas Edison was an important American inventor, is a weak thesis statement. No one is going to disagree that Thomas Edison wasn't important. Thomas Edison is the most influential inventor in American history, is a better thesis statement. You're making a claim about your topic that you can argue.

A bibliography is a list of all of the sources you have used in the process of researching your topic. I am requiring the use of at least 5 different sources, 2 of which cannot come from a website, and at least one must be a primary source. An annotated bibliography is a bibliography that also includes a 1.) brief explanation of each source and 2.) how it was significant in your project. Each annotation should include a description of the source, why you used that source, how it is important to your project, and any other important or interesting details.

Annotations must be written in the Chicago style, which is similar to MLA and APA, but not the same. Chicago style is the most common annotation style used in history papers. Examples of proper Chicago style bibliographies can be found online at www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

A process paper describes, in 500 words or less, the process of creating your exhibit. The process paper must answer the following: 1. How you chose your topic?, 2. How you conducted your research?, 3. Why a backboard is the best way to display your exhibit?, 4. Give a brief defense of your thesis. And 5. How your project relates to the NHD theme (Breaking Barriers in History). The process paper requires a title page. Look on the NHD.org webpage for more info.

Examples of thesis statements, process papers, exhibits, grading criteria, and entire project examples can be located at www.nhd.org. National History Day is a nationwide contest that occurs every year. There is a Maryland component to the competition and a national component. The FAW History Fair is using the exact same criteria as the National Competition.

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Task	Value	Description
Topic	20 points (Nov. 1)	Your topic proposal form about why you picked it and how it relates to our theme. "Breaking Barriers in History"
Thesis Statement Worksheet and Initial Annotated Bibliography	20 points (Nov. 7)	A strong thesis statement that makes a claim and at least three reasons that back-up your claim. Your initial annotated bibliography should have at least three different sources, and at least one of them must be from something other than a website, i.e. a book, newspaper article, autobiography, photo, audio recordings, etc.
First Draft of Process Paper with Full Annotated Bibliography	20 points (Nov. 14)	This includes your full annotated bibliography (minimum of 5 different sources, one must be a primary source, two of which cannot be websites) in Chicago Style format.
Final Draft of Process Paper	30 points (Nov. 25)	Your final process paper. Title page, properly formatted, less than or equal to 500 words, zero spelling or grammar errors, annotated bibliography in Chicago Manual of Style format.
Finished Project	50 points (Dec. 4)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Your backboard is organized and clear, and thoroughly expresses your argument. All text is spelled correctly. Effort was clearly put into the project. 500 Word Limit.2. You are knowledgeable about your topic, you can answer questions about your research, and you have clearly spent time understanding your topic.3. Your thesis statement should be on the board and the first thing the eye notices.