

# Judge Interview Questions

Since 2020, Manatee History Day has not included in-person judging for their projects at the county level. However, students selected for Florida History Day (the state contest) will need to participate in in-person judging in Tallahassee.

Your coordinators do not know what your judges might ask as it varies by topic and judge. But sometimes questions do tend to repeat from year to year. Remember, the judges' ruling (whether you agree or disagree with it) is final according to National History Day's Rulebook (pg. 38).

## **How much of this work did you do?** (As opposed to how much did your parents do?)

- Why did you pick this topic?
- Where did you get your information?
- How did you know where to go?
- What did you learn from this work?
- When did you start working on this topic?
- What is the most important thing you learned from completing this entry?
- What did each member of your group contribute? How did you decide who would do what?
- How did you come up with the script for your documentary or performance?
- How did you come up with your design for your exhibit or website?

## **Why did you pick your topic?**

- What gave you the idea to do this topic?
- How did you become interested in the topic?
- Why is this important to you?
- What do you think about this (event, person)?
- How will you use this information in the future?
- What was the most important point you are trying to convey about your topic?
- Why is this topic significant?

## **What kind of sources did you use?**

- What were your primary sources? (In other words, do you know what primary sources are?)
- What was your most important source and why?

- How did you decide which sources to use?
- How did you learn how to use the microfilm or Internet or photo archives?
- How did your primary sources help you understand your topic?
- Why were your secondary sources helpful?
- As you did your research, what surprised you the most about this topic?
- What was your greatest challenge in doing the research for this entry?

### **What is the significance of your topic?**

- What were the most important factors which caused your topic to occur?
- What were the most important consequences of this event or person's actions?
- Why did the person or people who are the subject of the entry become involved in this topic?
- What were the greatest obstacles to your subject's success? Why or how were obstacles overcome?
- If this is a local history topic, do you think what was occurring in this area was unusual or was the experience typical of what was occurring elsewhere? Why?

### **How does this topic relate to the theme of "Turning Points in History"?**