

# Frequently Asked Questions

**What is History Day?** A county-wide thematic history competition like the science fair – students who qualify may choose to compete at the state contest in Tallahassee. If students win first or second place at the state level, they may choose to compete at the national contest in Maryland.

## What kinds of projects can I do?

- Group Projects (up to 5 members)
  - Performance
  - Exhibit Board
  - Website
  - Documentary
- Individual Projects
  - Performance
  - Exhibit Board
  - Website
  - Documentary
  - Paper

**How does history benefit students and teachers?** For teachers, you can incorporate it into your Lit, History, Social Studies, or Language Arts syllabus. Make it a separate assignment or hold a class contest. For both students and teachers, this program reinforces the importance of writing skills, critical thinking, use of credible sources, and other methods to prepare students for high school or college.

**Can students select any topic they want?** Yes! Historical topics could be local, regional, national, or global topics.

**How old should the topic be?** As a general rule, about 20 years or more. This allows us to look at history and be able to answer “so what?” (which is your analysis)

**Does a teacher or school have to be involved for a student to participate?** Yes and no. You have to have a teacher to register underneath but it does not need to be part of your classroom’s syllabus.

**What age ranges are the projects judged in?** The program has been broken into two categories: Junior (6 – 8 grade) and Senior (9 – 12 grade).

**Where is the contest rulebook?** Manatee History Day uses the same rule book put together by the National History Day Program. The rulebook is found on National History Day's website, you can also click here: [NHD Contest Rule Book - National History Day](#)

**Do you have any materials to help students understand primary vs. secondary sources?** Yes, many of those materials are found at [manateevillage.org/manateehistoryday](#) or on the Student tab of the Manatee History Day contest ([fl-mhd.nhd.org](#))

**How do I write an annotated bibliography?** An annotated bibliography is a way to list your sources with an explanation of how you used that source in your project. For the most detailed information, use the NHD Annotated Bibliography Guide found on their website and here: [Annotated Bibliography Booklet 1.0 \(nhd.org\)](#)

**I've been chosen to go to the state contest, now what?** Even though your project was recognized as being eligible for state, it does not mean that your work is done. All projects need to put in a good deal of work to be able to compete on the state-level. Your coordinators will read over your materials and send suggestions (from typos to citation ideas to areas where your argument might be strengthened). Keep in mind that your coordinators have seen the level of the projects at state and they are providing suggestions to help improve your project. No coordinator will ever send you recommendations or suggestions to be mean or tell you your project is awful. To help guide this process, they will also reach out with optional feedback meetings and interview practice opportunities.

### **For Teachers: Need help getting started?**

Manatee History Day Coordinators can provide materials virtually or come to your classroom and do an overview or give a basic intro into annotated bibliographies and primary vs. secondary sources.