

EXHIBITS

History Day exhibits are designed to display visual and written information on topics in an attractive and understandable manner. They are similar to exhibits found in a museum. People walking by should be attracted to an exhibit's main idea and, therefore, stop to learn more about the topic. To be successful, an exhibit must create an effective balance between visual interest and historical explanation.

Below are some basic points to emphasize with students:

Building blocks for exhibits**Begin with content ...**

- Clarify relationship to theme
- Use available primary resources
- Display balanced research
- Display historical accuracy
- Demonstrate analysis and interpretation: A strong thesis/argument
- Illuminate historical context: Intellectual, physical, social, cultural, and economic setting
- Develop historical perspective: The causes and consequences of an event

... and finish with design

- Orientation: Introduction to the main idea of the project
 - Make thesis a central point of interest in the exhibit
- Segmentation: Dividing the exhibit into logical, identifiable sections
 - Use design elements, such as color and construction, to help achieve clear segmentation
 - Include a title for each segment
- Explanation: Use text to explain visuals
 - Keep captions to 2–3 sentences
 - Condense your information into the most important points
 - Use 500 words effectively

**Adapted with permission from Wyoming History Day.*

Teacher materials: for Section II, Exhibits

- Exhibit Checklist
- Exhibit Calendar
- 500-Word Limit for Exhibit Category



EXHIBIT CHECKLIST

EXHIBIT EVALUATION

- Improve title to better stress the theme
- Make your thesis more evident in your exhibit
- Place more emphasis on
 - History of your topic
 - History Day theme
 - Impact of your topic
- Other _____
- Your content should be more specifically focused on _____
- Include direct quotes in your captions
- Improve visual aspect by _____
- Include a timeline on exhibit
- Include a chart or graph that analyzes data
- Try to create the "mood" of your topic better
- Improve or change subheadings.
- Include a summary or analysis caption
- Choose different background music
- Give more specific examples to illustrate your points
- Correct spelling errors
- Correct grammar errors
- Get rid of irrelevant information that does not relate to thesis
- Include fewer details and more analysis
- Emphasize the "big ideas" about the topic
- Give credit when using ideas from others
- Use proper citation format
- Type in readable font and font size
- Give more specific details (names, dates)
- Your exhibit needs to be better organized
- Develop a stronger thesis

WORK HABITS

- Needs to demonstrate better organization
- Did not meet all checkpoint deadlines
- Did not sufficiently accept feedback
- Did not seek out feedback from others on the project
- Did not do sufficient revisions of project
- Needs to demonstrate more effective group work skills (groups only)

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EXHIBIT CHECKLIST (cont.)

RESEARCH

- ___ Increase number of primary sources used
- ___ Increase number of secondary sources used
- ___ Connect your topic to the issues of the time period

QUALITY OF WRITTEN WORK

- ___ Type in readable font and font size
- ___ Make written work neat and free of errors
- ___ Written work was not stapled in correct order

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ___ Make sure you know the definition of a primary source
- ___ Write entries in correct form
- ___ Correct indentation problems
- ___ Include annotations for each entry
- ___ Lengthen annotations (minimum 3 sentences each)
- ___ Entries must be alphabetized

TITLE PAGE

- ___ Type in correct format
- ___ Correct spelling and grammar errors
- ___ Title page must be neat and clean

PROCESS PAPER

- ___ Type in readable font and font size
- ___ Make research summary neat and free of errors
- ___ Tell how you researched
- ___ Show connection of topic to theme

MOCK INTERVIEW

- ___ Improve posture
- ___ Improve voice projection
- ___ Show more eye contact with audience
- ___ Convey more confidence when speaking
- ___ Answer questions more confidently
- Researched at a very high level
- Finished exhibit is creative and effective
- Gave an effective oral presentation
- Truly incorporated the theme into the project
- Completed high-level written work
- Worked with partner(s) cooperatively
- Displays strong historical content

EXHIBIT CALENDAR

EXHIBIT STEPS	DUE DATES
Get organized for research (paper management, choice of category, and choice of individual or group work) Select a topic	
Background reading for historical context	
Narrow your topic Gather, record, and organize information	
Analyze and interpret sources	
Develop a thesis	
Develop themes and organization for display	
Create lettering	
Take pictures, print pictures, create quotes for boards	
Mat and mount visuals Create captions	
Complete final draft	
Proofread Write process paper	

500-WORD LIMIT FOR EXHIBIT CATEGORY

The word limit counts toward any student-composed written materials that are used on an exhibit (excluding the title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography). This includes:

- A date counts as one word, while each word in a name is individually counted. For example, "January 1, 1990" counts as one word, but "John Quincy Adams" counts as three.
- Words such as "a," "the," and "of" are counted as one word each.
- The limit does not include words found in materials used for illustration, such as documents, artifacts, or graphs not created by the students, or to quotations from primary sources such as oral history interviews, letters, or diaries. These materials are not student composed.
- Brief citations crediting the sources of illustrations or quotations included on the exhibits do not count toward the 500-word limit.
- Words in timelines or scrapbooks do count toward the limit if they are student composed. But, if a timeline is a *transcription of a secondary or primary source* then it is *not student composed and does not count* toward the word limit.

NOTE: As with all History Day rules, check NHD website for any updates or rule changes: www.nationalhistoryday.org