General Contest Rules for All Categories

Rule #1: All contestants must be in Grades 6-12. Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 must enter the Junior Division. Students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 must enter the Senior Division.

Rule #2: No student may participate in more than one entry. Group projects are still encouraged.

Rule #3: A paper, individual exhibit, individual performance, individual website, and individual documentary must be the work of one (1) student. A group exhibit, group performance, group website, and group documentary must be the work of two (2) to five (5) students.

Rule #4: All entries must show student research on some aspect of local or state history of Illinois. All entries must be student-produced and constructed.

Rule #5: Students are not allowed to resubmit another student's project or a project that they submitted from a previous year's fair.

Rule #6: All students must adhere to their school's rules and code of conduct in formulating any project and providing its individual parts or artifacts. If you have questions, request permission from your teacher.

Rule #7: Two copies of the Summary Statement Form and Annotated Bibliography are required for Illinois History Day competition.

Rule #8: Securing the summary statement form & any other property (i.e. props, artifacts, etc.) are the student's responsibility.

Rule #9: An annotated bibliography is required for all entries. Students should refer to standard bibliographic form such as MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers or Turabian's A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers. NOTE: An annotated bibliography is distinguished from other bibliographic forms by a brief (often two to three sentences) explanation of how the source was especially distinctive and useful for the topic on which you have written.
Rule #10: Annotated bibliographies must be divided into “primary” and “secondary” sources. Some sources can be qualified as both, but the student must decide which category each source belongs under and justify that decision. Do not list the same source under both.

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Rule #11: Students who receive Superior ratings on papers and websites will have three weeks from the date of their regional to make necessary revisions before returning them to be judged for the state competition.

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Rule #12: Audio used with a project must be kept to a level which does not distract any judge from evaluating any other project in the same project area.

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Rule #13: All exhibits, websites, documentaries, and performances must be accompanied by a completed "Summary Statement Form" for both Regional and Illinois History Day. Papers will use a Thesis Statement and Outline page instead of a Summary Statement form.
Rule #1: Papers must be written by only one student and they may submit only one paper.

Rule #2: The text of a Junior Division or Senior Division research paper should be no less than 1,500 words and no more than 2,500 words. The same guidelines apply for National History Day entries.

Rule #3: Papers can be about the student’s own community, region, or the state of Illinois as a whole.

Rule #4: Papers must have a cover sheet including the following information: Title, Student Name, School, Division, Word Count, and NHD Status (indicate if project is competing for NHD).

Rule #5: Research papers must begin with a single, separate sheet including a Thesis Statement and an Outline, in place of the Summary Statement Form. The Thesis Statement should be a paragraph of two to three sentences declaring what question or questions you hope to answer in the following paper. The Outline should contain no more than five subheadings. This does not count towards the student-composed word count.

Rule #6: All research papers must contain an annotated bibliography. Students are encouraged to follow the style found in Turabian's A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers, or MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Lack of a bibliography will result in automatic disqualification. Use of style must be consistent throughout.

Rule #7: Papers MUST have footnotes or endnotes. Specific information on footnote form is available in Turabian's A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers or MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers is acceptable. Parenthetical citations will not be accepted. NOTE: The page numbers that were used must be given in the footnote or endnote citation; if reference material came from a vertical file where no page numbers were available, please indicate that no page numbers were given.

Rule #8: Papers must be typed and double-spaced.

Rule #9: Papers advancing to the state competition must be submitted as a PDF. Entries submitted through Google Drive will not be accepted.
ILLINOIS HISTORY DAY REGIONAL & ILLINOIS HISTORY DAY

Individual and Group Exhibit Rules

Rule #1: A group may range from two (2) to five (5) students. Performances may also be created by an individual student.

Rule #2: All exhibits must be constructed by the individual/students and have a maximum of 500 words on the exhibit panels. The point of research and planning in the exhibit category is to condense and synthesize the topic into a visual presentation that is self-explanatory.

Rule #3: An exhibit may contain additional written material, but it must take the form of captions and/or labels, documents, oral history, quotations, etc.

Rule #4: Exhibit entries should be no more than 40" wide, 30" deep, and 6' high. Any project which does not comply with these sizes cannot receive a "Superior."

Rule #5: An exhibit must have an annotated bibliography. Students should refer to Turabian's A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers, or MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, to determine the correct bibliographic form.

Rule #6: Exhibits must be visual and stationary. The use of media devices must be integral and functional to the project and must not run for more than three (3) minutes. Judges must be able to operate all media devices.

NOTE: Projects that use media devices which run for more than three (3) minutes will not qualify for a "Superior" rating.

Rule #7: Exhibits can be about the student's own community, region, or the state of Illinois as a whole.

Rule #8: Exhibits must have an annotated bibliography. Students should refer to Turabian's A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers, or MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, to determine the correct bibliographic form.

Rule #9: A "Summary Statement Form" must be included with all exhibits.
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Individual and Group Performance Rules

Rule #1: A group may range from two (2) to five (5) students. Performances may also be created by an individual student.

Rule #2: Performances must be the creation of the contestants. Additional recorded music, photographs, slides, etc., must be fully credited within the bibliography.

Rule #3: Performances can be about the student's own community, region, or the state of Illinois as a whole.

Rule #4: Students will be allowed five (5) minutes to set up, ten (10) minutes to perform, and five (5) minutes to remove any props after the performance is over. Performances that exceed the time limits will not be eligible to receive a "Superior" rating.

Rule #5: Students must supply their own equipment and props.

Rule #6: Use of computers or other media devices as accompaniment or a supplement to the live performance is permitted. Supplemental visual material must be integral to the performance, and is the responsibility of the student. Only participating students may be able to control these elements.

Rule #7: Performances must have an annotated bibliography. Students should refer to Turabian's A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers, or MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, to determine the correct bibliographic form.

Rule #8: A "Summary Statement Form" must be submitted to the judges prior to performance.

Rule #9: Students will be assigned a time for their performance. Performances are open to the public.

Rule #10: Students should be available in the contest area twenty (20) minutes prior to their performance.
ILLINOIS HISTORY DAY REGIONAL & ILLINOIS HISTORY DAY

Individual and Group Documentary Rules

Rule #1: A group may range from two (2) to five (5) students. Documentaries may also be created by an individual student.

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Rule #2: Documentaries can be about the student's own community, region, or the state of Illinois as a whole.

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Rule #3: All documentaries must be accompanied by a "Summary Statement Form."

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Rule #4: A maximum of five (5) minutes is given to set up, a maximum of ten (10) minutes for the presentation, and a maximum of five (5) minutes is given to take down the media. Documentaries which exceed the time limits will not be eligible to receive a "Superior" rating.

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Rule #5: Contestants may be present for the entire 20-minute presentation. Please be prepared to answer any questions the judges may have. However, formal narratives will not be accepted.

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Rule #6: Contestants will be assigned a time for their presentation. Presentations are open to the public.

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Rule #7: Students must have an annotated bibliography. Students should refer to *Turabian's A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers*, or *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* to determine the correct bibliographic form.

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Rule #8: Professional photographs, slides, recorded music, etc., may be used, but such items must be integrated into the presentation by the student producers and must be fully credited within the bibliography and are the responsibility of the student. Students must narrate all audio portions except, for example, when using an oral history excerpt.

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Rule #9: Added visual material is not allowed.

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Rule #10: Live involvement by students is limited to the running/operation of media devices/equipment. Judges must be able to control all media devices if students are not present to do so.

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Rule #11: Computers, DVD players, and monitors will be provided. Any additional equipment that is required must be provided by the student.
ILLINOIS HISTORY DAY REGIONAL & ILLINOIS HISTORY DAY

Individual and Group Website Rules

Rule #1: All website entries must be original productions constructed using the NHD web site editor whether or not the project is being considered for NHD eligibility. The Weebly builder does not require an email and ensures even ground in website creation. Websites will also be locked from editing after their deadline, then will be reopened to make changes suggested by regional judges. Entries submitted through other website builders will not be accepted.

https://nhd.weebly.com/

Rule #2: Websites can be about the student's own community, region, or the state of Illinois as a whole.

Rule #3: A group may range from two (2) to five (5) students. Websites may also be created by an individual student.

Rule #4: Web site entries may contain no more than 1,200 visible, student-composed words. Code used to build the site and alternate text tags on images do not count toward the word limit. Also excluded are: words found in materials used for identifying illustrations or used to briefly credit the sources of illustrations and quotations; recurring menus, titles, and navigation instructions; words within primary documents and artifacts; and the annotated bibliography and process paper that must be integrated into the site. The entire site, including all multimedia, may use no more than 100MB of file space.

You may use professional photographs, graphics, video, recorded music, etc., within the site. Such items must be integrated into the web site, and proper credit must be given within the site as well as in the annotated bibliography. You must operate all software and equipment in the development of the web site.

Note: Using objects created by others for specific use in your entry violates this rule. For example, using a graphic that others produced at your request is not permitted; however, using graphics, multimedia clips, etc., that already exists is acceptable.

Rule #5: The annotated bibliography and summary statement form must be included as an integrated part of the web site. Students should refer to Turabian's A Manual of Style for Writers of Term Papers, or MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers to determine the correct bibliographic form. They should be included in the navigational structure. They do NOT count toward the 1,200 word limit.

Rule #6: One page of the web site must serve as the “home page.” The home page must include the names of the participants, entry title, division, school, city and state, student composed word count, and the main menu that directs viewers to the various sections of the site. All pages must be interconnected with hypertext links. Automatic redirects are not permitted.
ILLINOIS HISTORY DAY REGIONAL & ILLINOIS HISTORY DAY

Individual and Group Website Rules (cont.)

Rule #7: Multimedia clips may not last more than 4 minutes TOTAL (one four-minute clip, two two-minute clips, etc.). You may record quotes and primary source materials for dramatic effect, but you may not narrate your own compositions or other explanatory material. All multimedia must be stored within the site; you may not use embedded material hosted elsewhere (e.g., YouTube, Google Video). If you use any multimedia that requires a specific software to view (e.g., Flash, QuickTime, Real Player), you must provide on the same page a link to an Internet site where the software is available as a free, secure, and legal download. Judges will make every effort to view all multimedia content, but files that cannot be viewed cannot be evaluated as part of the entry.

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Rule #8: The content and appearance of a page cannot change when the page is refreshed in the browser. Random text or image generators are not allowed.

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Rule #9: The pages that comprise the site must be viewable in a recent version of a standard web browser (e.g., Microsoft Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). You are responsible for ensuring that your entry is viewable in multiple web browsers. Entries may not link to live or external sites, except to direct viewers to software plugins, per Rule 4.

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Rule #10: You must submit the URL for the site in advance by the established deadline, after which you will be blocked from editing your site to allow for judging. Deadlines for websites will vary by region. Because all required written materials are integrated into the site, NO printed copies are required.