

**State Contest Registration Instructions**

**District  
Winners'  
Packet**

**2018**



**Kansas  
History  
Day  
Foundation**

Information for State Contest Registration will be posted on the website, [kansashistoryday.org](http://kansashistoryday.org). Registration for State will be available March 5.

**Five copies** of the following materials must be ***Mailed by March 28***, accompanied by a copy of the registration signature page and payment: Historical Papers, process papers, and annotated bibliographies for performances, exhibits and documentaries. ***April 2 is the date on which websites will be closed to further editing for judging purposes.*** **Nomination packets for special prizes and awards are also due by April 5.** State Contest materials and payments must be sent to the Kansas History Day Foundation's ***mailing address*** in Topeka and not the corporate address in Fort Scott.

At the State Contest, media rooms *will be provided* for the documentary categories. ***Websites might not be viewed by judges at the contest; website students may only be interviewed by the judges.***

The student registration process is completed only ***after*** copies of the student's "Registration Confirmation Statement," Historical Paper or process paper, annotated bibliography, and fee payment have been received. ***These must be MAILED BY March 28! There will be a \$30 late fee added to the registration fee.***

**Note:** Revised copies of process papers and bibliographies may be brought to the state contest! ***One*** copy must be left at the registration table for the Clerk of the Contest.

### **Reminder Regarding Group Entries**

New members ***may not*** join a group after the district contest, as each member of a group "...must be involved in the research and interpretation of the group's topic."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National History Day, Inc. *Rule 3: Individual or Group Entries*, "Rules for All Categories", National History Day Contest Rule Book. (Washington, D. C.: National History Day, Inc., 2002), 6.

## **Kansas History Day State Contest Awards and Prizes**

To be considered for an award, student must complete the nomination form. Those entries with incomplete nominations will not be considered. All nominations for awards will be reviewed prior to the contest to determine if they meet the requirements of the award criteria. Only those meeting the criteria will be considered for judging. Finalists will be determined prior to the contest. Nomination form will be on the website.

### **Economic Need Scholarship**

Funding donated to help pay student expenses associated with attending the National History Day Contest in June will be awarded on an economic need bases only. Scholarship form is on the website.

## **Judges' Comments/Evaluations Forms**

In an effort to minimize mistakes in the distribution of the judges' comments/evaluations forms, and to improve the quality of judging at the state level, the forms will not be distributed at the end of the State Contest. ***Forms will be mailed to teachers the week following the contest after they have been reviewed.*** There are several other states that have done this and have improved the quality of the judging at the state level and thus the quality of the entries going on to nationals.

## Historical Papers, Process Papers, & Annotated Bibliographies

1. All papers submitted ***MUST HAVE*** a ***TITLE PAGE!!!***  
(See next pages for a sample title page)
2. Papers for all categories, *except for Historical papers*, should be **stapled together** in the following order: title page, process paper, and then annotated bibliography.
3. Papers should ***not be*** enclosed in a cover or a binder.
4. The title page ***should only*** contain:
  - A. Title
  - B. Student name(s)
  - C. Division (Junior or Senior) and Category
5. The title page ***may not*** contain:
  - A. School
  - B. Teacher
  - C. Image/graphic
6. Primary and secondary sources ***must be*** listed separately in the annotated bibliography.

# **Sample Title Page**

**[Entry Title]**

**[Student Name(s)]**

**[Division]  
[Category]**

**[Word count]**



## Frequently Asked Contest Questions\*

1. How do I count words for the **500 Word Limit in the Exhibit Category?**  
(Rule #3 in the Exhibit Section of the "Student Contest Guide")

Student-composed written materials that are used on an exhibit (**excluding the title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography**) must contain no more than 500 words.

This limit does not apply to words found in materials used for illustration, such as documents, artifacts, graphs, or timelines which were not created by the student(s). It also does not apply to quotations from primary sources such as oral history interviews, letters, or diaries. These materials are not student-composed. ***However, if a student does use his or her own words in a timeline or on a graph, those words do count.***

The 500 word limit applies to any student-composed written materials used in any media devices (computers, slides, video) and/or any supplemental materials.

**The following are examples of how student composed words are counted on exhibits:**

- 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.

2. Is the 500-word limit in an exhibit category separate from the 500-word limit for the process paper?

Yes, the title page, process paper, and bibliography are considered as being separate from the exhibit and do not count towards the 500-word limit for the exhibit itself.

3. How do you count words for the paper category?

The text of the historical paper (Title page, notes, annotated bibliography, illustration captions, and appendix materials that are directly referred to in the text do not count) must be no less than 1,500 words and no more than 2,500 words in length. Each word or number in the text of the paper counts as one word. Unlike exhibits, words in quotations do count against the word limit in papers. Each part of a name counts as one word, so "Mark Van Doren" would count as 3 words. Each part of a date counts as a word, so "June 13, 2002" would count as 3 words.

Please note that only words in the text of the paper count. Words in the title of the paper do not count, although words in subtitles dividing parts of the paper do count, as they are part of the text. Words in notes, annotated bibliographies, illustration captions, and appendices do not count against the limit, as they are not part of the text of the paper.

4. Can you have pictures in a paper, like illustrations, graphs, etc.?

Illustrations also are acceptable. Captions do not count in the word total. Make sure that illustrations are directly related to the text, and don't overdo them. The people who volunteer as

paper judges tend to be quite text-based, and they're probably not going to be impressed by excessive illustrations; instead, they're likely to suspect that maybe you didn't have much confidence that your writing could stand up on its own.

No pictures, graphs, illustrations, etc. should be included on title pages for process papers or historical papers.

## 5. Can I use a fictional first person in a paper or performance?

Yes. At the beginning of the Category Rules for Papers in the National History Day Contest Guide, there's a description of papers: "A paper is the traditional form of presenting historical research. Various types of creative writing (for example, fictional diaries, poems, etc.) are permitted, but must conform to all general and category rules. Your paper should be grammatically correct and well written." The Rules state, "A performance is a dramatic portrayal of your topic's significance in history and must be original in production." A performance is not simply an oral report or a recitation of facts. You can make up characters to make a broader historical point, but don't make up history. While performances must have dramatic appeal, that appeal should not be at the expense of historical accuracy.

Therefore, clearly it is possible to have fictional characters, for example, writing a fictional diary. However, you need to make sure that you cite sources just as you would for a traditional paper or in a performances use primary sources like letters where appropriate. Most importantly, it still has to be good history. You can make up the character, but the circumstances and events of the character's life and which that character witnesses or participates in should be based on historical facts.

If you are writing a traditional research paper, not a creative paper, it is best not to use a fictional character. The judges would find that quite jarring, and would be likely to think less of your paper for it.

## 6. What is a primary source?

Primary sources are materials directly related to a topic by time or participation. These materials include letters, speeches, diaries, newspaper articles from the time, oral history interviews, documents, photographs, artifacts, or anything else that provides first-hand accounts about a person or event. Check out the [Research Roadmap](#) for more help.

Some materials might be considered primary sources for one topic but not for another. For example, a newspaper article about D-Day (which was June 6, 1944) written in June 1944 was likely written by a participant or eyewitness and would be a primary source; an article about D-Day written in June 2001 probably was not written by an eyewitness or participant and would not be a primary source. Similarly, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, delivered soon after the 1863 battle, is a primary source for the Civil War, but a speech given on the 100th anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg in 1963 is not a primary source for the Civil War. If, however, the topic was how Americans commemorate the Civil War, then the 100th anniversary speech would be a primary source for that topic. If there's any doubt about whether a source should be listed as primary or secondary, you should explain in the annotation why you chose to categorize it as you did.

### **Here are some common questions about primary sources:**

- *Are interviews with experts primary sources?* No, an interview with an expert (a professor of Civil War history, for example) is not a primary source, UNLESS that expert actually lived through and has first-hand knowledge of the events being described.

- *If I find a quote from a historical figure in my textbook or another secondary source and I use the quote in my project, should I list it as a primary source?* No, quotes from historical figures which are found in secondary sources are not considered primary sources. The author of the book has processed the quotation, selecting it from the original source. Without seeing the original source for yourself, you don't know if the quotation is taken out of context, what else was in the source, what the context was, etc.
- *Should I list each photograph or document individually?* You should handle this differently in notes than in the bibliography. When you are citing sources for specific pieces of information or interpretations, such as in footnotes or endnotes, you should cite the individual document or photograph. In the bibliography, however, you would cite only the collection as a whole, not all the individual items. You should include the full title of the collection (i.e., Digges-Sewall Papers or the Hutzler Collection), the institution and city or city/state where the collection is located (i.e., Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore). You can use the annotation to explain that this collection provided 7 photographs, which you used in your exhibit or that collection provided 14 letters which were important in helping you trace what happened. The same treatment applies to newspaper articles. In the footnotes or endnotes, you should cite the individual articles and issues of a newspaper. In the bibliography, you would list only the newspaper itself, not the individual issues or articles; you can use the annotation to explain that you used X number of days of the newspaper for your research.

## 7. How many sources should I have for my annotated bibliography?

We can't tell you a specific number of sources, as that will vary by the topic and by the resources to which you have reasonable access. For some topics, such as the Civil War or many 20th-century US topics, there are many sources available. For other topics, such as those in ancient history or non-US history, there likely are far fewer sources available. The more good sources you have, the better, but don't pad your bibliography. Only list items, which you actually use; if you looked at a source but it didn't help you at all, don't list it in your bibliography.

You do need to find both primary and secondary sources. Secondary sources help you to put your topic in context, that is, to see how your topic relates to the big picture and to understand its long-term causes and consequences. Primary sources help you develop your own interpretation and make your project lively and personal.

As much as possible, your research should be balanced, considering the viewpoints of all relevant groups. That means losers as well as winners, males and females, different nations, different socioeconomic/ethnic/religious groups, etc. What balanced means will vary depending on your topic.

## State Contest Medalists & Awards

All students participating at Kansas History Day are eligible for statewide recognition and to compete for medals and awards.

Medals are awarded to the top two entries in every category. The *top entry* in each category receives a gold medal and an invitation to compete at National History Day in College Park, Maryland, June 10-14, 2018. The *second-place entry* in each category receives a silver medal and an invitation to compete at National History Day.

The *third-place* entry in each category *may* receive an invitation to compete at the national contest if either the gold or silver medalist in that category is unable to enter National History Day. For this reason, the awarding of third place is very important. Therefore third-place will also receive an information packet regarding registering for the national contest. Third-place winners may also receive statewide recognition in the media, and are able to highlight their successful achievement on college applications. Third place will be announced at the awards ceremony.

The student Awards page on the KHD website (<http://www.kansashistoryday.org/state-contest-awards.html>) has information regarding the awards given at the State and the criteria that must be met for each. If none of the entries nominated for an award do not meet the award criteria, the award will not be awarded. All winners, including the Kansas History Day Teacher of the Year Award winners, will be announced at the awards ceremony.

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The Kansas History Day District Contests are sponsored by:

**Lawrence High School  
Ashland Public School  
Fort Scott Community College  
Washburn University  
Solar Kiwanis Club of Manhattan  
Friends University, Wichita  
Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum**

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