NHD
NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY

# Summary of Significant Changes to *Contest Rule Book*

*August 2014*

National History Day has revised the *Contest Rule Book*, effective with the beginning of the 2014-15 contest year. Changes to the rules impact student participation at each level of the competition. While the NHD contest is not focused solely on rules, the *Contest Rule Book* sets forth the foundation for the entire program and establishes a consistent and fair footing for the contest cycle, from school level to the National Contest. NHD strongly recommends that teachers review the entire *Contest Rule Book*, available at www.nhd.org, and share it with students. Below is a summary of the major changes. Please refer to the *Contest Rule Book* for exact wording, full explanations, and examples of these changes. Please also thoroughly read the expanded "Definitions" section for clear explanations of common terms. Contact your affiliate coordinator with any questions.

## New Rules

### Exhibit: Credits of Visual Sources Required on Exhibits

Students must include a brief credit, on the exhibit itself, for all visual sources (e.g., photographs, paintings, charts, graphs, etc.). They also must fully cite these sources in their annotated bibliography. *(See: IV. Individual Category Rules – B. Exhibit, Rule B4, pages 24-25.)*

Alice Paul, 1918, Library of Congress

Alice Paul was responsible for the campaign for women's suffrage and the introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment.

- ✓ Keep in mind that a credit will be much briefer than a full citation. For example: The credit below includes the organization where this picture can be found (Library of Congress), but does NOT include the details that are part of the bibliographic citation.
- ✓ Students may consider including these credits in a smaller font, below the image on the exhibit, similar to how a credit appears in a book.
- ✓ These brief credits do NOT count toward the student-composed word count.

*A brief, factual **credit** is required and does not count toward the 500-word limit.*

*A student-written **caption** does count toward the 500-word limit.*

### Required Documentation of Word Counts for All Categories

Students must document the word count for projects in all categories. Refer to the *Contest Rule Book* for category word limits as well as guidance on determining word counts in each category. *(See: III. Rules for All Categories – Rule 14, page 17 and IV. Individual Category Rules – E. Website, Rule E3, page 32.)*

- ✓ Paper: Total number of words in paper included on title page
- ✓ Exhibit: Number of student-composed words in exhibit and number of words in process paper included on title page
- ✓ Documentary and Performance: Number of words in process paper included on title page
- ✓ Website: Number of student-composed words in website and number of words in process paper included on website home page

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|---|---|---|---|
| Title<br><br>Name<br>Junior Division<br>Historical Paper<br>Paper Length: 2,234 words | Title<br><br>Names<br>Junior Division<br>Group Exhibit<br>Student-composed Words: 489<br>Process Paper: 410 words | Title<br><br>Name<br>Senior Division<br>Individual Performance<br>Process Paper: 425 words | Title<br><br>Name<br>Senior Division<br>Individual Documentary<br>Process Paper: 410 words |

**Website: Multimedia is Limited to No More than Four Minutes for Entire Website**

A website may contain multimedia, audio, video, or both, but the grand total for all multimedia used within the website may total no more than four minutes. Clips are no longer limited to just 45 seconds each. Rather, students have a grand total of four minutes to divide up at their discretion. It is the student's decision to divide up this overall media limit to best provide supporting evidence in their website. *(See: IV. Individual Category Rules – E. Website, Rule E4, page 32.)*

- ✓ Please note that any music or song that plays after a page loads is included in this total.
- ✓ A website could include many, smaller clips or include fewer, longer clips. The choice is up to the student.

**Website: Quotes and Visual Sources Must Be Credited Within Website**

Students must include a brief credit, in the website itself, for all VISUAL and WRITTEN sources (e.g., quotes, photographs, paintings, charts, graphs, etc.). They must also fully cite these sources in their annotated bibliography. *(See: IV. Individual Category Rules – E. Website, E5, page 33.)*

- ✓ Keep in mind that a credit will be much briefer than a full citation.
- ✓ These brief credits do NOT count toward the student-composed word count.

## Clarifications

Reflecting frequently asked questions, NHD has clarified rules in the areas below.

**Disqualification vs. Rule Infraction** *(See: I. What is National History Day?, Definitions – Rule Infraction and Disqualification, page 6; III. Rules for All Categories – Rules 4, 6, and 19, pages 14-19.)*

A rule infraction is a violation of any of the rules stated in the *Contest Rule Book*. Failure to comply with the rules will count against an entry but will only result in disqualification as described below. Disqualification is removal from competition and results from any of the following violations:

1. Plagiarizing all or part of the NHD project, including failure to give proper credit.
2. Reusing, individually or as a group, a project (or research from a project) from a previous year, or entering a project in multiple contests or entry categories within a contest year.
3. Tampering with any part of the project of another student.

**After Entering the Competition Cycle, Students Cannot Add or Replace Group Members**

Once a group project enters the competition cycle (at either the Regional or Affiliate level, whichever is first), additional students may not be added and missing group members may not be replaced at that or subsequent competitions during that contest year. *(See: III. Rules for All Categories – Rule 3, page 14.)*

- ✓ Check with the contest coordinator about rules regarding contest attendance. Contest coordinators may or may not require that all group members be in attendance at a contest to be eligible to participate.
- ✓ If a group member cannot participate in the event, the student MUST remain listed as part of the group. He or she participated in the development of the entry. A project cannot move from a group entry to an individual entry once it enters the competition cycle.

**Check with Contest Coordinators About Available Documentary and Performance Equipment**

Students must check with their contest coordinator at EACH LEVEL OF COMPETITION about the type of equipment available at the contest venue, especially in the documentary category. Students should use care in saving the project in the correct file format and be sure to bring back-up copies. It is the student's responsibility to make sure their documentary is playable at the competition. *(See: III. Rules for All Categories – Rule 8, page 15.)*

**Website: Printed Copies of Process Papers and Bibliographies are Not Required for Websites**

The website category requires that all written materials (process paper and annotated bibliography) are included in the website itself. Students are not required to submit printed copies of these materials when registering for any level of an NHD contest. *(See: IV. Individual Category Rules – E. Website, E9, page 33.)*

*NHD is grateful to Sarah Aschbrenner, Co-Coordinator of NHD in Minnesota, for her assistance in creating this summary.*