

National History Day: Suggested Timeline

Basic Outline-Fall Semester Course

August/September

Introduction to History Day

- Read rule book and discuss theme

Building Historical Thinking and Research Skills

- How to conduct research; how to construct bibliography
- Primary and secondary sources

Topic and Category Selection

- Work on finding and narrowing topics
- Decide category and group or individual entry

October

Research

- Begin secondary source research using library resources
- Identify additional sources using bibliographies of secondary sources

Mid-October

Research

- Continue secondary source research and begin primary source research
- Make use of digital archives throughout research process

Thesis Development

- Construct strong, clear thesis statement

Project Development

- Begin creating entry
- Identify any images to be used in project

November

Project Development

- Continue constructing entry

Evaluate Progress

- Preliminary bibliography due
- Outline/storyboard/rough draft due
- Thesis statement due

Revision

- Use teacher feedback to improve project

December

Project Development

- Finalize entry
- Present and seek feedback from peers and adults

Evaluate Progress

- Finalize thesis statement
- Final bibliographies due
- Final project due

School and District Competitions

- Prepare for presentation and interview questions at competition
- Present project at regional contests (late February-March)

March/ April*

Revision

- State qualifiers continue to research and improve project based on judges' feedback from regional competitions

State Competition

- April 23, 2016 at Mercer University, Macon

May/June*

Revision

- National qualifiers revise projects for the national competition

June*

National Competition

- June 12- 16: National History Day Contest in College Park, Maryland

*After semester is over in December, students' projects should be completed, even though they will not compete until the spring semester.