

Scope and Sequence

Organization is a key component to the success of your students in the National History Day competition. The structure of a detailed plan allows students to see the direction they are heading, allowing for thoughtful and organized projects.

It is important when beginning the NHD program to plan out assignments and deadlines for students. The following is a timeline created by Megan Gately at the Arizona Historical Society to help guide you through the NHD competition. This timeline is available at http://www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org/nhd/docs/NHD_Timeline_Teachers.pdf. Other timelines are also available on the National NHD site at <http://nhd.org/TeacherGettingStarted.htm>.

TIMELINE

September/October	<u>Introduction to National History Day</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce Primary and Secondary Sources to students• Introduce uncovering bias in sources• Introduce how to use the library and Internet for sources
October/November	<u>Brainstorming/Relating to the Theme</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present the theme• Decode terms and definitions of the theme• Relate previously learned material to the theme• Distribute/present suggested topics from future material and students interest• Demonstrate how to narrow a topic• Locate secondary sources• Using library and Internet for research
November/December	<u>Research Skills</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locate primary sources• Develop a thesis• Preliminary outline of historical argument, thesis, and supporting content• Introduce citing sources and compiling a bibliography• Be sure to check out the Research Checklist through the Arizona Historical Society at http://www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org/nhd/docs/research_checklist.pdf
January	<u>Constructing the Project</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select the category: paper, exhibit, performance, documentary, website• Begin construct the entry

	<u>Finalizing the Entry</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the entry to parents and teachers • Revise based on feedback
February	<u>Regional Contests</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check website for submission dates and procedures (in Arizona: http://www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org/nhd/default.asp; National Website: www.nhd.org) • Remember that students need to be registered in advance of the competition! This cost \$20 per student! They also need to submit their bibliography, website, and paper in advance of the competition as well! Check your local NHD website for the exact details of this process.
March	<u>Making Changes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise projects using judges' feedback • Students who are advancing to the state competition should take this time to prepare
April	<u>State Competition</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember that papers and URLs must be submitted two weeks before the competition
May	<u>Revisions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National qualifiers improve projects using judges' feedback • National qualifiers attend Student Prep Workshop
June	<u>National Contest</u>

OVERALL PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS

This schedule may seem intense, but we assure you that the results are worth the work! In order to make things flow smoothly (as well as they can in the world of education) we suggest that you have an NHD related assignment due at least once a week. This will help you to make sure that your students are advancing with their projects and are keeping on task. It is difficult to provide one-on-one attention to every student, but setting aside specific classroom workdays will help you assist each student as much as you can. The following is a list of possible assignments to assign to students throughout the school year:

- Have students choose a topic for their research project. Ask them to write this down, why they chose this topic, and how it relates to the NHD theme.
- Have students develop five to six questions that will guide their research. These should be open-ended questions that they will be able to answer once they put together good information. They should not be able to be answered by yes or no.