Name(s):

Period:

Rough Draft DUE:
JAN. 29 FRI.

Date   Period

5 Paragraph Essay Outline

Introduction

Thesis

Body Paragraph 1

Body Paragraph 2

Body Paragraph 3

Conclusion

HANDOUT: ORGANIZING YOUR INFORMATION FOR RESEARCH PAPERS

Research papers are the traditional way or organizing and presenting information. The best way to start your paper is to create an outline. It may be useful for you to physically write out your thoughts first, placing key events, points, and evidence on notecards and arranging them on a flat surface. This may give you a better idea about how exactly you would like to organize your paper.

Basic Outline

Introduction
- Use this section to *briefly* introduce your topic. Give the reader enough information to orient them about when and where your topic is happening. Don't spend a great deal of time explaining everything. That is what the rest of your paper is for.
- Your thesis should be included in this first paragraph as well. It should help to outline the rest of your argument for the reader.

Body Paragraphs
- Each of these paragraphs should make a point that *ties back to your thesis.*
- *Tell a story* with your writing. You want the information to be segmented and arranged in a way that flows from one point to the next.
- You may want to consider tools like *subtitles* to orient the reader and make it easier to fill in your information as you write.

Conclusion
The conclusion of an effective paper *restates* (in a slightly different way than the thesis) your argument and *summarizes* your evidence. Every sentence in this paragraph needs to be powerful and use an active voice. This is your final impression – so make it a good one!

Other Notes to Consider When Writing

Physically arrange your work on flat surface. This often lets you see "the whole picture," which normally can't fit on a computer screen.

Don't throw anything away! You may want to discard a lot of your work as you go because it doesn't seem useful to you. However, often people who read early draft of your work may make suggestions to include a part you tossed away. Don't create more work by throwing parts away prematurely.

Pay close attention to grammar, writing style, and citation. Avoid redundant sentence structures (starting sentences the same way) and use a thesaurus to spice up your writing.

KNOW THE RULES

✓ NHD Rule Book – new edition revised for 2015

   o New rules for exhibits, websites, word counts, etc.

✓ Understand and follow the specific rules for each category – these are equalizers: time, size, and length limits, etc.

Rules for All Categories

✓ Plagiarism – grounds for immediate disqualification

✓ Current Year – students may not build on a previous NHD project or reuse research

✓ Original Work – entries must be the original work of the student

✓ Conclusions must be your own

✓ Design and construction must be your own

✓ Objects may not be created by others for you to use

   o Examples: hiring an artist, having a friend design your set, having a parent build your exhibit

✓ Reasonable adult help

   o Teachers = guides, coaches

   o Parents = chauffeurs, financiers, proofreaders, cheerleaders.

   o Power tools are an adult's job

QUALITIES OF A GOOD NHD PROJECT

Here are the qualities a judge will use to evaluate your NHD project. After you create your project, go through this list and ask yourself if you've met the criteria or incorporated the information into your project.

Historical Quality: 60%

The historical quality of your project is by far the most important criteria.

☐ **My project is historically accurate:** All information in my project is true to the best of my knowledge.

☐ **I show analysis and interpretation:** My project doesn't just recount facts or tell a story. I interpret and analyze my topic. My project has a strong central thesis or argument that I prove. I can point to where I state my thesis in my project.

☐ **I place my topic in its historical context:** My topic didn't take place in isolation. I make sure to place my topic into historical context—the intellectual, physical, social, and cultural setting for my topic.

☐ **My project shows wide, balanced research and I use available primary sources:** These ideas all relate to the research behind your NHD project. Judges will look carefully at your bibliography to learn more about your research process. They want to see that you investigated multiple perspectives about your topic and that you looked at all sides of an issue. They are looking for research using both primary and secondary sources and want to see that you used a variety of source types.

Relation to Theme: 20%

☐ **I clearly relate my topic to the theme:** My theme connection is clear in my project itself.

☐ **I demonstrate the significance of my topic in history and draw conclusions:** My project does more than just describe my topic. I explain why my topic is important in history or demonstrate its significance.

Clarity of Presentation: 20%

☐ **My project and written materials are original, clear, appropriate, and organized:** I have an organized and well-written project. I was careful to avoid plagiarism and I have double-checked spelling and grammar in my project process paper, and bibliography.

☐ **My project has visual impact, uses multimedia effectively, and actively involves the viewer:** I thought about the overall design and organization of my project. I chose multimedia and interactive elements to help viewers understand my topic and prove my argument, if appropriate for my category.

From National History Day Handbook, "How to Create a Website" pg. 61