

Oklahoma National History Day

Suggested Timeline for Exhibit Category Yearlong Course

August/ September	Introduction to History Day • Read the rulebook • Discuss theme Building Historical Thinking and Research Skills • How to conduct research • Primary and secondary documents • How to construct a bibliography Topic and Category Selection • Work on finding and narrowing topics • Decide category and group or individual entry Research • Begin secondary source research (books and journal articles) using library resources—look for background information on event/individual and time period
October	Research • Use secondary source bibliographies and citations to look for primary sources • Begin primary source research (newspapers, published memoirs or recollections) • Explore other avenues—call or email professionals, scholars, or witnesses to topic; conduct interviews; etc. Project Development • Create a basic layout for the exhibit • Consider design (including the use of media, artifacts, graphs, maps, etc.) • Create bibliography • Begin writing process paper Evaluate Progress • By the end of the October, students have 2–5 secondary source books and 2–5 secondary source journal articles; basic layout of exhibit board

November	Research • Continue research—look for other available primary sources (letters, diaries, photographs, government documents, census records, etc.) • Make notes of any quotes that might be used in exhibit Thesis Development • How does this topic relate to the theme? • Why is this topic important or significant? • Use the answers to these questions to begin constructing a thesis statement Project Development • Identify newspaper or magazine articles, government documents, letters, or other primary sources to be used as images on the website • Begin writing captions and text for exhibit board • Begin gathering photos and artifacts for use on board • Construct exhibit board frame • Keep bibliography up to date • Continue writing a process paper Evaluate Progress • By the end of November: students have 3 primary source newspaper articles, 5 other primary sources, and 10 secondary sources (combination of books, journal articles, and other secondary sources); exhibit board frame; and preliminary thesis statement Revision • Use teacher feedback to improve project
December	Research • Continue research • Make notes of any quotes and copies of any documents that might be used on exhibit board Project Development • Begin building exhibit • Create/collect any multimedia elements and equipment • Finish gathering artifacts and writing captions • Continue writing text • Strengthen and clarify the thesis • Keep bibliography up to date • Continue writing a process paper Evaluate Progress • By the end of December: students have at least 10 secondary sources and 10 primary sources; completed script; and completed soundtrack • Thesis statement should be strong and clear Revision • Use teacher feedback to improve project

January	Project Development • Create a timeline and other graphics • Continue writing text and creating exhibit board • Keep bibliography up to date • Finish process paper Evaluate Progress • Preliminary bibliography due: students have at least 12–15 secondary sources and 12–15 primary sources • Thesis statement due • Turn in all text – must include introduction and conclusion • Process paper finished Revision • Use teacher feedback to improve project
February	Project Development • Finish revising text • Mount text, photos, artifacts, newspapers, etc. to exhibit board • Finish exhibit board • Finalize bibliography • Present and seek feedback from peers and adults Evaluate Progress • Final bibliographies and process papers due • Exhibit boards due Revision • Use feedback from teacher, peers, and adults to improve project before regional contest School and District Competitions • Prepare for presentation and interview questions at the competition • Present project at regional contests (late February–April)
March/ April	Revision • State qualifiers continue to research and improve project based on judges' feedback from regional competitions
May	State Competition • State History Day Contest at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City
May/ June	Revision • National qualifiers revise projects for the national competition
June	National Competition • National History Day Contest in College Park, Maryland