



Oklahoma National History Day

Suggested Timeline for Paper 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 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. • Become familiar with the correct method of citing sources Writing • Develop bibliography Evaluate Progress • By the end of October: students have 2–5 secondary source books and 2–5 secondary source journal articles

November	Research - Continue research—look for other available primary sources (letters, diaries, photographs, government documents, census records, etc.) Writing - Start putting pieces together to create an outline of paper (i.e., introduction, body, conclusion) - Keep bibliography up to date 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 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) Revision - Use teacher feedback to improve project
December	Research - Continue research Writing - Begin writing using the outline to guide thoughts - Use correct citations - Strengthen and clarify the thesis - Keep bibliography up to date 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 - Should have the first pages written with correct citations Revision - Use teacher feedback to improve project
January	Writing - Continue writing paper using correct citations - Make the title page - Keep the bibliography up to date Evaluate Progress - Preliminary bibliography due: students have at least 12–15 secondary sources and 12–15 primary sources - Rough draft due (3–6 pages of text in addition to the title page) - Thesis statement due Revision - Use teacher feedback to improve project

February	Writing • Finish writing paper and bibliography • Present and seek feedback from peers and adults Evaluate Progress • Final bibliographies and process papers due Revision • Use feedback from teacher, peers, and adults to improve paper before regional contest School and District Competitions • Prepare for presentation and interview questions at the competition • MUST submit paper at least 2 weeks prior to district competitions • 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