

# *Heart of Texas Regional History Fair*

## Workshop for Teachers

### Study Questions

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#### Module 1: Getting Started

- 1 What grade levels are eligible to compete in the HOTRHF?
  - grades 9-12
  - grades 6-12
  - grades 5-12
  - grades k-12
- 2 True or false: Students must enter a local school fair in order to compete at the regional fair?
  - True. Only by winning at a local schoolwide local history fair may a student proceed to compete at the Heart of Texas Regional History Fair.
  - False. Home-schooled students and students whose schools do not have local fairs may still arrange to have their projects reviewed by teachers or other adults and then enter them in the regional fair.

#### Module 2: Organization of the Fair

- 3 What are three divisions of competition at the HOTRHF?
  - Elementary, Middle, and High School divisions
  - Fifth-grade, Junior (grades 6-8), and Senior (grades 9-12)
  - Beginner (grades 5-7), Intermediate (grades 8-9), and Advanced (grades 10-12)
  - All students compete together at the regional fair.
- 4 How many students may work together to create a group project for the HOTRHF?
  - 3-6 students
  - 2-3 students
  - Any number of students make work together.
  - 2-5 students
- 5 May winners in the fifth-grade division go on to compete at Texas History Day and National History Day?
  - Yes, but only at Texas History Day, as there is no fifth-grade category at National History Day.
  - Yes, first- and second-place winners in the fifth-grade division may compete at Texas History Day and winners at the state competition may compete at National History Day.
  - No, fifth-graders may enter the regional fair to gain experience and recognition at the regional level only; there is no division for fifth-grade competitors at the state or national level.
  - Yes, but fifth-graders compete with students in grades 6-8 in the junior division at the state and national fairs.

#### Module 3: Project Categories

- 6 What are the five categories of projects in the HOTRHF?
  - Exhibits, Documentaries, Performances, Historical Papers, Web Sites
  - Films, Slide Shows, Plays, Dramatic Readings, Essays
  - Oral Histories, Essays, Audio Recordings, Video Recordings, Exhibits
  - Documentaries, Plays, Web Sites, Photography, Essays
- 7 May a group of students work together to write an historical paper?
  - Yes, as long as all members of the group contribute approximately the same number of words to the essay and the same number of entries in each section of the bibliography
  - Yes, but each student's work must be in separate, titled section with the student author clearly identified for each section.
  - No, the Historical Paper category is open only to individual competitors.

- Competitors in the junior division may enter as a group, but senior competitors may only enter as individuals.
- 8 Are there separate group and individual categories for Web site projects?
  - Yes, the Web site project category is separated into group and individual projects, which are judged separately.
  - No, individual and group Web site projects compete together within their divisions.
- 9 What kinds of projects may fifth-graders enter in the fair?
  - All of the project categories available to junior and senior division competitors are also available to fifth-graders.
  - Exhibits, Performances, and Documentaries
  - Historical Papers, Web sites, and Exhibits
  - Exhibits only

#### Module 4: Exhibits

- 10 What components must an exhibit project include?
  - Display board, bibliography, title page, and thesis statement
  - Pictures, quotations, and at least one audio or video segment
  - Display, annotated bibliography, process paper, and title page
  - Display which incorporates all project materials including title and citations to sources used
- 11 In a three-panel exhibit, where is the best place for the project title?
  - Top of left panel
  - Top of right panel
  - Banner or poster attached to table top or front
  - Top of center panel
- 12 How many words may an exhibit include in captions and other displayed text?
  - No limit, as long as all text is clear and easy to read
  - 500 words, but picture captions do not count in this limit
  - 500 words, which applies to all text created by the student that appears on or is part of the exhibit
  - 500 words, which applies to all text created by the student that appears on or is part of the exhibit excluding text or narrative written for media devices
- 13 May an exhibit include a tape recorder playing an excerpt from a broadcast speech?
  - No media devices are allowed in exhibits.
  - Only original recordings of the student's own voice or musical performance may be included.
  - Yes, as long as the recording is no longer than 3 minutes long.
  - Yes, as long as a transcript of the speech excerpt is also included in the process paper.

#### Module 5: Documentaries

- 14 What media may be used for presenting documentaries?
  - Slides, video tapes, and audio cassettes only
  - Interactive computer programs, digital video, and CDs
  - VHS, Super8, Mini-DV only
  - Slides, film, video and audio devices, and computers, as long as no participation by viewers or judges is required
- 15 What is a storyboard?
  - A display poster which summarizes the documentary's main thesis
  - A visual display of a documentary script divided into segments, where each segment is represented by an appropriate image (slides, video clips, etc.) for that segment.

- A printout of each segment of the documentary submitted for judging with the process paper and bibliography
  - An essay which describes the main theme or story of the documentary
- 16 May students present a live introduction to their documentaries?
- Yes; the student-presented introduction is an important part of a documentary project.
  - No, students may announce only the title of their presentation and the name(s) of participants(s); live narration and comments prior to or during the presentation are prohibited.
  - Yes, but the live narration may not exceed 3 minutes.
  - Yes, but only if the judges give permission at the conclusion of the recorded portion.

### Module 6: Performances

- 17 Must students write their own scripts for performance projects?
- Yes; all words spoken onstage by student performers must be their own composition.
  - Yes, although students may use actual dialogue, quotations or excerpts from speeches to put historical detail into their performances.
  - No, students may also perform excerpts from published plays or performances, as long as full credit is given to the original.
  - No, teachers and parents may help write scripts as long as students memorize their parts and perform them without prompting.
- 18 What is blocking, and how does it help in creating a performance?
- Blocking is a way of determining where the blind spots in a set are, i.e., the areas that will not be visible to all viewers.
  - To block a performance is to divide the performance area into areas, called blocks, for easy reference in the process paper.
  - To block a performance is to determine where the actors will stand, move, and/or relate to the set, and is helpful for planning props and designing sets.
  - Blocking is a way of analyzing the parts of a script that are particularly difficult to memorize.
- 19 Must students submit a printed copy of their script along with their process paper and annotated bibliography for judging?
- No; a performance project entry consists only of the performance itself, an annotated bibliography, and a process paper with a title page.
  - A script is not necessary but it may be submitted as a supplement to the process paper.
  - Yes, all performance projects must include the printed script.
  - Yes, although a video or audio recording of the performance may be submitted in lieu of the script.

### Module 7: Historical Papers

- 20 What is the word limit for an historical paper, and about how many typed pages will result?
- There is no word limit; papers must be ten to twelve pages in length.
  - 3,000 words, but in no case more than twelve pages.
  - 1,500 to 2,500 words in length, or approximately eight to ten pages typed.
  - 2,000 words, or approximately eight pages.
- 21 What is a thesis statement and what is its role in an historical paper?
- a set of facts which provides the theme for a paper
  - a concise statement of opinion which the entire paper is written to support
  - an erroneous assumption which the paper is written to disprove
  - the final conclusion of the paper
- 22 Must students submit a process paper with their historical paper and annotated bibliography for judging?

- No; the historical paper category is the only one which does not require a process paper.
  - Yes; the process paper is still required to show that the student did her own research.
- 23 Should a thesis statement be controversial?
- No; controversy should be avoided in historical writing because it distracts from the presentation of facts.
  - Yes; the best papers often begin with a strong, controversial thesis and then present thorough research that investigates all points of view before drawing a conclusion.
- 24 Must an historical paper include footnotes (or endnotes) as well as an annotated bibliography?
- Yes; every quotation, picture, idea, or other matter taken from another source must be cited in footnotes or endnotes.
  - No; as long as every source of material used in the paper is listed in the bibliography, footnotes are not necessary.
- 25 Do the words in the annotated bibliography count in the total word count for an historical paper?
- Yes; every word in the printed material submitted for judging counts in the word limit.
  - No, only words in the text of the paper count in the limit; this excludes annotated bibliography, captions, supplemental/appendix material, or notes.

### Module 8: Web sites

- 26 Should Web site projects include animations and special effects?
- No; animations and special effects are prohibited in Web sites, as they often cause computer crashes and may spread viruses.
  - Yes, animations and special effects are required in Web sites to demonstrate knowledge and skill in using Web design software.
  - Animations and special effects may be used sparingly, if they contribute meaningfully to the content of the project.
- 27 How can a storyboard help in planning and creating a Web site project?
- elements.
- A storyboard is used only for documentaries.
  - A storyboard should display each page of a Web site to help plan the placement of visual and audio elements
  - A storyboard is a printout of the Web site submitted with the CDs for judging; it is not a planning tool.
- 28 What is the file size limit for Web site projects?
- There is no file size limit; the limit is a word count limit of 1,200 visible, student-composed words.
  - There is no file size limit; the limit is a page limit of 20 pages, including the home page.
  - Web sites may be no bigger than 100MB of file space, including all multimedia.

### Module 9: Topics and Research

- 29 What is the theme for this year's history fair?
- Conflict and Compromise in History
  - Communication in History: The Key to Understanding
  - Innovation in History: Impact and Change
  - Triumph and Tragedy in History
- 30 Are local history topics acceptable for history fair projects?
- No; only topics of interest to a wide audience are acceptable.
  - Yes, although local history topics do not usually attract much interest at the state and national level of competition.
  - Yes, but only if there are a lot of secondary sources available on the topic.

- Yes; local history topics can be excellent for history fair projects, especially if there are rich primary sources available.
- 31 Can the Internet be useful for good historical research?
- No; Internet sources may not be used or cited in history fair projects.
  - Internet sources may be cited, but only as secondary sources.
  - The Internet provides access to many primary sources; used critically and selectively, the Internet can be a valuable source of historical information.
  - The Internet has replaced other sources in research; students can do all of their research via the Internet.
- 32 A recently published history book includes a quotation from a speech made by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; may this quotation be cited as a primary source?
- No; quoted material is cited as a secondary source.
  - Yes, if the quotation is long.
- 33 What and where is The Texas Collection?
- A collection of Texas maps at the Waco-McLennan County Library
  - A collection of pistols, rifles, and other artifacts at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame
  - A collection of Indian artifacts at the Mayborn Museum
  - A collection of primary and secondary sources about Texas history in the Carroll Library on the Baylor University campus.

#### [Module 10: Process Paper](#)

- 34 What categories of history fair projects require a process paper?
- Documentaries, exhibits, and Web sites
  - Performances and documentaries
  - historical papers, Web sites, and documentaries
  - Documentaries, exhibits, performances, and Web sites
- 35 What is the word limit for process papers?
- There is no word limit; process paper can be no longer than one page.
  - 750 words, but no more than three pages
  - 500 words
- 36 Should the student's age, grade, and school name appear on the title page of a process paper?
- Students may include any information they wish on the title page, as long as it is attractive and easy to read.
  - Only the project title, name(s) of student(s), and project division and category may appear on the title page.
  - Only the project title, name(s) of student(s), and project division and category, and the school name may appear on the title page.
  - Only the project title, name(s) of student(s), and project division and category, and the school name and grade may appear on the title page.
- 37 What matter should be addressed in the final section of the process paper?
- explanation of how project relates to the annual theme
  - explanation of how presentation category was selected and how project was created
  - explanation of how topic was chosen
  - explanation of how research was conducted

#### [Module 11: Annotated Bibliographies](#)

- 38 What categories of history fair projects require an annotated bibliography?
- All project categories require an annotated bibliography.

- All project categories except historical paper require an annotated bibliography; historical papers have footnotes or endnotes and thus do not need a bibliography.
  - All project categories except performances
  - Only historical papers require an annotated bibliography.
- 39 What information should be included in an annotation?
- Annotations must explain how the source was used and how it helped the student understand the topic.
  - Annotations should include a quotation from the cited source.
  - Annotations should provide a summary of the information in the cited source.
  - Annotations provide an opportunity to expand on points made in the project.
- 40 What are the two sections into which the bibliography must be divided?
- Books and periodicals
  - Print and nonprint materials
  - Primary and secondary sources
  - Internet and non-Internet sources
- 41 Should the bibliography include every source the student looks at during her research?
- Yes; the bibliography should include all sources found, considered, or used.
  - No; the bibliography should include only sources quoted directly in the project.
  - No; the bibliography should include only sources which provided usable information or new perspectives in preparing the project.
- 42 What style guide should students follow to format bibliography entries?
- Any widely recognized, standard style may be used as long as it is applied consistently.
  - No style guide is necessary, as long as each source is clearly identified.
  - MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* is the only permissible guide.
  - Chicago Manual of Style* is the official style guide for the history fair.

### Module 12: Rules

- 43 May a student revise a history fair project for entry in another year's fair?
- No; only projects begun and completed in the current fair year may be entered for competition.
  - Yes, as long as substantial additional research and revision are done.
- 44 May a parent do the videorecording for a student's documentary?
- Yes; parents may handle technical aspects of any project, as long as the student understands the material and can present it herself.
  - No; students must do the videorecording themselves, including handling equipment and editing the final product.
- 45 If a student has recorded some oral history interviews which she does not use in her project, may she give the recordings to another student to use in his project?
- Yes, as long as credit is given to the student who did the interviews.
  - No, it is not permissible for students to share research unless they are working together on a group project.
- 46 May a parent help a student set up props for a performance?
- Yes, parents may help set up large or heavy items for a performance.
  - No; all props and sets for a performance must be set up by the student performer.

### Module 13: Judging

- 47 What is the most important set of criteria by which a history fair project is judged?
- Clarity of presentation
  - Historical quality

- Relation to the theme
  - Rule compliance
- 48 Are historical papers judged on the day of the regional fair?
- Yes, papers are presented to judges at fair check-in on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning of the fair.
  - No, papers must be submitted for judging several weeks before the fair; deadline is posted on the HOTRHF Web site.
- 49 When does judging of Web sites take place?
- Web sites are judged on Thursday evening of the fair.
  - Web sites must be submitted for judging several weeks before the fair; deadline is posted on the HOTRHF Web site.
- 50 If judges are unable to view a Web site as submitted on CD, is the project disqualified from competition?
- Yes, Web sites which cannot be viewed on CD are disqualified.
  - No, but judges will reduce the overall rating of the project.

#### Module 14: Registration and Check-in

- 51 May teachers register by mailing printed registration forms to the HOTRHF office?
- Yes, teachers may choose to send in printed registration forms if they prefer.
  - No, only online registrations will be accepted.
- 52 Should teachers complete online registration for students entering the regional history fair?
- Yes, teachers are required to register each of their students after they have completed setting up registration for their school.
  - No, each entering student should register for herself after her teacher has set up the school's registration.
- 53 How are fee payments made for students entering projects in the regional history fair?
- Payment may be made online via debit or credit card.
  - Payment must be made by check, money order, or cash and must be mailed or delivered to the HOTRHF office.
- 54 How many projects in each category may each school bring to the regional history fair?
- There is no limit on the number of projects schools may bring to the regional fair.
  - Each school may bring only three projects in each category to the regional fair.
  - Each school may bring a total of 24 projects per division to the fair, but there is no limit on number of entries within categories.
  - Each school may bring a total of 60 students to the fair, but there is no limit on number of entries within categories.
- 55 When must junior exhibit competitors check in at the regional fair?
- Junior exhibit competitors must check in on Thursday afternoon of the fair.
  - Junior exhibit competitors may check in either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning of the fair.
  - Junior exhibit competitors must check in on Friday morning.
  - Junior exhibits are submitted for preliminary judging on Thursday evening, so they do not need to check in.
- 56 May a parent check in for her child at the fair?
- Home-school parent/teachers only may check in for their children at the fair.
  - No, parents may not check in for their children at the fair.
  - Parents may check their children in on Thursday afternoon of the fair. Competitors not checked in on Thursday afternoon must check in for themselves on Friday morning.
  - Parents may check in for their children if they have more than one child competing in the fair.

- 57 Do all of the members of a group have to check in at the fair?
- Yes. All members of a group must check in for themselves.
  - No. Only one member of the group may check in for the group, although all members of the group must attend the fair.
  - Groups may choose whether to check in individually or have one member check in for all.
  - Sponsoring teachers must check in group projects to avoid congestion at the check-in table.
- 58 Do historical paper competitors have to check in at the fair?
- No; as long as historical paper competitors register online by the deadline and submit their papers for judging as required, they do not have to be present at the fair itself.
  - No; historical paper competitors may not be present at the fair, although they may attend the awards ceremony on Friday evening.
  - Yes, all competitors, including students entering historical papers, must check in at the fair either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.
  - No; sponsoring teachers may check in for historical paper competitors on Thursday afternoon.

### Module 15: Awards

- 59 Do third-place winners at the regional fair go on to compete at the state fair in Austin?
- Yes; first, second, and third place winners all go on to state competition.
  - No; only first-place winners may go on to compete at the state fair.
  - Yes; first-, second-, and third-place winners as well as honorable mentions all go on to compete at the state fair.
  - No; only first- and second-place winners may go on to compete at the state fair.
- 60 Do fifth-grade competitors receive awards?
- Fifth-graders compete for first-, second-, and third-place awards within their division.
  - Each fifth-grade participant receives a ribbon at the awards ceremony, and fifth-graders are eligible for many of the special awards.
  - Fifth-grade teachers are given ribbons to present to their students at school.
  - Fifth-graders participate in the fair to gain experience; they do not receive awards.
- 61 How many students may each school nominate for the Ada Margaret Smith Award?
- Any number of outstanding students may be nominated for the award.
  - The award is presented to outstanding projects, and both group projects as well as individual ones are eligible.
  - Only one student per grade may be nominated for the Ada Margaret Smith Award.
  - Only one student per school may be nominated for the Ada Margaret Smith Award.
- 62 Are seventh-graders eligible for the Ada Margaret Smith Award?
- No, only juniors and seniors are eligible.
  - Yes, any student in the junior (grades 6-8) or senior (grades 9-12) division is eligible for the Ada Margaret Smith Award.
  - Yes, the award is specifically intended for middle school students.
  - No, this award is for high school teachers.
- 63 What students are eligible for the Baylor University Scholarship Award?
- Seniors only
  - Any student who has been accepted by any accredited institution of higher learning
  - Juniors only
  - Students in grades 11 and 12 are eligible for the scholarship award.
- 64 How many students may each school nominate for the Baylor University Scholarship Award?
- Each school may nominate only one student for the scholarship award.
  - There is no limit on the number of student nominees for the Baylor University Scholarship Award.

- No more than one student per grade may be nominated from each school.
- 65 Who must write letters of nomination for a student competing for the Baylor University Scholarship Award?
- Homeroom teacher and another adult (not a family member) such as a coach, pastor, music or dance teacher, or neighbor, who knows nominee well
  - Any one teacher from current academic year
  - Nominee's high school principal and counselor
  - Nominee's sponsoring teacher, and either the nominee's high school principal or high school counselor.
- 66 Who is eligible for the Calvin B. Smith Award?
- Public school teachers only from the Central Texas area
  - Home school parent-teachers only
  - Principals and counselors from throughout the Central Texas area
  - All teachers sponsoring competitors at the regional fair