

Hawai'i History Day QUESTIONS JUDGES MIGHT ASK

The purpose of the interview is to allow the judges to get to know the student(s) and learn a little more about what went into the development of the History Day entries. Information presented by the students during the interviews is not included in the evaluation and ranking of entries. The entry itself is all that is evaluated for ranking.

Teachers should prepare their students for the interview. Help them to be comfortable with the prospect of talking with judges and practice with them. The following list is of sample questions. They are not inclusive of the questions that judges might ask during an interview.

Questions for all entries:

1. What was your most important source, and why?
2. What is the most important point you are trying to convey about your topic?
3. What is the most important thing you learned from completing this entry?
4. Why did you select this topic? What gave you the idea to do this topic?
5. As you did your research, what surprised you most about this topic?
6. What did you find most difficult about doing the research for this entry?
7. How did your primary sources help you understand this topic?
8. How did you come up with the script or design for this project?
9. Why did _____ (the person or people who are the subject of the entry) get involved in _____ (whatever they became involved in?)
10. If you researched an individual, what were the largest obstacles faced by this person?
11. If you researched an event, what were the most important factors that caused this event to occur?
12. What were the most important consequences of this _____ (event or person's actions?)

The final question all students should be prepared to answer:

- Is there anything you weren't asked, that you would like to talk about?

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Other Questions

1. Why is your topic important to study?
2. What is the most surprising thing you learned about your topic? From which source did you learn this information? Why was this surprising?
3. What was the most important source you used? How did this source help you shape your opinion on this topic?
4. Did your thesis statement or idea change with your research?
5. What did you learn about your NHD project? What would you do differently in your research next time?
6. Is this topic relevant to anything in current events?

These questions should be answered in students' project, but you may seek clarification:

- How did this impact history?
- What is the historical significance?
- What conclusions can you draw?
- Why did this happen?
- Ask... about time and place and cause and effect.