

# ***History Day 2007: An Introduction***

## **1) What is History Day?**

History Day is a nationwide program where students create projects based on a certain theme. This year, the theme is **"Triumph and Tragedy in History"**. Students will choose a topic, research it, and develop a major project which will then be presented at our own Wayzata West History Day Fair. Some students will be selected to advance to the regional History Day Fair. The competition continues to the state and then national levels.

## **2) What are the requirements?**

- All students must choose a **specific topic** which fits with the theme **"Triumph and Tragedy in History"** and is a topic in U.S. History.
- Students will **research** this topic using **primary and secondary sources**.
- Students will **research answers for 3 questions** about the topic that they want answered: What is the background (causes, history) of my topic? How does my topic fit with the theme **"Triumph and Tragedy in History"** in U.S. history? What are the effects (impact) of my topic?
- Students will create a **product** which answers the 3 questions on their specific topic. This can be in the form of an exhibit, a media presentation, or a performance. Students may work individually or as a group (2-3 members). Groups can be formed with students from other 7th grade history classes. Groups require parent approval.
- Students will create a **"paper packet"** which includes a title page, a short paper describing the research process, and an annotated bibliography. (Every student is required to turn in their own original paper packet, even if they are working in a group.) This will be completed in Language Arts.

## **3) What are the product options (in more detail)?**

**Exhibit**--This is like a museum display. It is designed to display visual and written information in an easy to understand and attractive manner.

**Media Presentation**--This is like a documentary you might see on the History Channel (only shorter!). You will use I-Movie or a similar PC program to create this.

**Performance**--This is a live performance, where historical information is presented in the form of a dramatic monologue or a play.

*\*\* Again, all projects must include the paper packet. Specific requirements will be discussed in L.A. class.*

#### 4) Is it better to work by myself or with a group?

Group projects can be very rewarding and effective; however, it is important that you pick your group wisely! You need to work with people you know are going to put the same amount of effort into the project as you are. You must also be able to coordinate working together outside of class, especially if you don't have the same history class.

#### 5) How will this project be evaluated?

You will be evaluated in two ways. First of all, you will get a letter grade and a point value which will be counted in your 3rd quarter grade. **THIS PROJECT WILL BE WORTH AS MUCH AS AN ENTIRE UNIT.** This will count in your history grade. Second, you will be completing the paper packet in Language Arts. This includes the process paper and the annotated bibliography and will be counted in the Language Arts grade.

#### 6) How will I be evaluated if I am in a group?

For History class, your group will receive one grade for the project. It is impossible for teachers to determine who did what work on a group project, so once again choose your group wisely! You do not want to do all of the work and have others get credit. In Language Arts you will get an individual score as every student must complete their own paper packet.

#### 7) Will I have to do outside research and work?

Yes! **All of your homework assignments will be to work on this project.** This includes outside research, developing your project, and completing your paper packet. Make sure that you are working on the project **at least 3 nights a week!** You will be given a list of outside resources and libraries to visit which should prove helpful. There will be periodic research checks that will be graded.

#### 8) How difficult is it to advance to the next History Day fair?

Fairly difficult. At our school fair, the top winners in each category will go on the regional fair. If you are selected to move on, we encourage you to revise and improve your project before each fair.

#### 9) Will this be any fun?

Lots! And you will learn quite a bit about a topic of *your* choice!