

# So what do I have to do to finish my....

# Performance

## **First things first...you need an Annotated Bibliography!**

**NHD Rule 15:** An annotated bibliography is required for all categories. It should contain all sources that provided usable information or new perspectives in preparing your entry. You will look at many more sources than you actually use. You should list only those sources that contributed to the development of your entry. Sources of visual materials and oral interviews must be included. The annotations for each source must explain how you used the source and how it helped you understand your topic. Annotations of websites should include a description of who sponsors the site.

**NHD Rule 16:** You are required to separate your bibliography into Primary and Secondary sources. SOME SOURCES may be considered as either primary or secondary. USE YOUR ANNOTATIONS TO EXPLAIN your reasoning for classifying any sources that are not clearly primary or secondary. (DON'T put it in both places...choose one and explain why in your annotation).

**NHD Rule 17:** Follow MLA Style

**NHD Rule 18:** You must give credit to all sources used in your entry. Failure to credit sources is plagiarism and will result in disqualification.

**MORE DETAILS INCLUDING SAMPLE BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON THE SALK HISTORY DAY WEBPAGE TO HELP YOU OUT!!!**

## **A few IMPORTANT rules to keep in mind!**

NHD Rule: Performances may not exceed 10 minutes.

NHD Rule: You must only announce the title of your presentation and names of participants. Only student entrants can run equipment and be involved in performance.

NHD Rule: You have five minutes to set up and five minutes to remove props.

NHD Rule: You can use slides, tape recorders, computers, or other media in your performance as long as you run it all and carry out any special lighting or sound effects.

NHD Rule: Do not give your script to the judges.

NHD Rule: You can have a costume produced for you but the design, choice of fabrics, etc must be your own OR you may rent a costume. Remember: simple is best (you aren't being judged on the costume you wear but on the script you deliver).

## **Stepping into a Rough Draft!!!**

**Step One:** Go through your notes, think about your topic. Look at your thesis statement. How are you going to prove that thesis and show its impact on history?

**Step Two:** Think about who you are going to be (doesn't have to be the maker of your innovation!), Think about the time period...the location....other events of the time.

**Step Three:** Write a tentative script. Read it out loud slowly and time yourself. Was it way too long or short? Adjust accordingly.

**Step Four:** Think about costumes and props to reflect the time, mood, theme and place. Keep it simple!

**Step Five:** Keep working on your script and begin to walk through the movements thinking about costume changes and props. Make sure they go together.

**Step Six:** Videotape yourself and watch it (or get somebody to watch you and critique you—not just say you are good).

**Step Seven:** Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse!

## **COMMON ISSUES WITH PERFORMANCES**

- An unrealistic scenario. Make sure that what you are portraying could have really happened!
- Too many scene or costume changes. You can do multiple scenes and costumes, but make it an easy transition from one to the other.
- Students not staying in character—do what they would have done (not what you would do!)
- Too much reenactment AND/OR Too many facts
- Not enough content (There needs to be a balance between content, reenactment and facts).

## **DON'T FORGET A TITLE PAGE!!!**

A Title Page has the Title of your project at the top. On the bottom is has your name, Junior Division & Category (performance).

**CHECK IT OUT**

## **TITLE**

STUDENT NAME  
JUNIOR DIVISION  
PERFORMANCE

# Script writing tips

Take the time to answer these questions on another piece of paper and you'll be amazed at how it gives you some HUGE help with a top notch script. Remember, this category is about the script!

- 1) Who is the person that stands out as the main character for your topic?
  - 2) What is the physical setting of this person's life, event or situation? (Days, months, years, mood, season, time of day).
  - 3) Who are other people important to that person's life, event or situation?
  - 4) What action or things occurred during the event or situation? What happened? Why? How long? Who was involved?
  - 5) What changed or what was a result of the person's life, the event or situation? How did the person affect the community?
  - 6) How will you start so your audience understands the time, place and people involved in your story? (*Introduction*)
  - 7) What do you need to explain so your audience understands how the person or lives of people involved in the event or situation change? (*Middle*)
  - 8) How are the lives of the people involved in the event or situation different when the action is over? (*End*)
- There should be a moment or two that serves as the climax of the presentation.
  - Quotes, speeches and letters are good to use.
  - Photocopy photos and images to get a sense of the subject.

## Several things 4 a GR8 NHD performance

Introduce your thesis statement at the beginning of your performance (without telling us it's the thesis)

Summarize the thesis statement at the end of your performance (without telling us but make SURE it is obvious).

Be sure to address the main arguments you are trying to prove in your thesis. Use evidence to back it up (research!).

Summarize main points at the end of performance.

Do the actions of your character(s) help illustrate important ideas of your topic?

Do the props help illustrate important ideas for your topic?

How will it show through your performance how your topic connects with the theme?

How will you show through your performance that your topic is important in history.

BE the character! Take on the role all the way.

### How does the judging process go?

**Step One:** Go to the judging room at the allotted time with everything you need (script, costumes/props, two copies of title page/process paper/annotated bibliography stapled together).

**Step Two:** When the judges call you into the room greet them and get set up. Hand them the packet but NOT your script.

**Step Three:** When you are ready and they tell you to begin, begin your performance and STAY CONFIDENT!

**Step Four:** When you are done, bow, and answer their questions saying as MUCH as you know. Never say "I don't know." You can always say, "I didn't come across that in my research." Don't forget to smile. Be yourself. Share ALL that you've researched.

**Step Five:** Pack up your stuff and THANK the judges. Be happy with yourself and PROUD!

# Top Ten Tips for Creating an Excellent NHD Performance

10. Create an interesting character(s)
  - Who can best tell this story? (be creative)
  - How can you effectively give multiple points of view?
9. Demonstrate your character's **feelings & opinions**
  - Your topic was once personal to your character—**SHOW IT!**
  - Incorporate quotes or primary source materials. Let your research help you write your script!
8. Have action (body and voice) to keep your audience involved.
  - Create a reason as to why you are telling your story.
  - Make sure your movement has purpose.
7. Don't allow your props and set to steal the show
  - Props can add or distract. Find the balance. Ask yourself, "Is this necessary? Why?"
6. Find a costume that matches your character's time, place and social class.
  - You **ARE** your character—try your best to look it.
  - If costumes are difficult to locate/create, something neutral paired with an "add on" is effective (shawl, blanket, tie, hat, etc. )
5. Check the judging rubric as you write the script.
  - Does the script show your topic's impact? Does it show multiple perspectives? Does it show the time period (historical context?)
4. Show your stuff!
  - You know a **TON** about your topic—let that shine through in your script.
  - If it makes sense, use some of the primary sources you found as props.
3. Let yourself be **HEARD**—speak up and enunciate!
  - Speak loudly and clearly.
  - Drop the accent if people can't understand you. What you have to say is more important than any accent.
2. Rehearse your lines!
1. Be dramatic! It is a performance after all!

# SAMPLE SCRIPT OUTLINE

**First 2 minutes:** Get to the first R of your topic.

**Next 3-4 minutes:** Layout the possible solutions. Connect the first R to the second R.

**Critical 2-3 minutes:** Escalate to the break point. This is the climax of your performance! The main R

**Wrap-up 1-2 minutes:** What's the final R? How does it impact history? How would we be different if this had not happened? Why should we remember it?

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## TIPS & TRICKS

**Find a common theme that you can weave through your performance from beginning to end. Could be a phrase, prop, idea, etc.**

**Tell a story that shows change over time.**

**Provide context! How does the time and place affect your topic? Why did it happen then? Why did it happen there?**

**Don't just tell us, draw conclusions in your performance. Use evidence from your sources to have a point of view as it relates to the theme.**