



## Frequently Asked Questions: Being A Judge

**I've never judged History Day before. Is that okay?**

Absolutely! We welcome seasoned and new judges. The day of the Contest there will be an orientation an hour before judging begins. Judging teams will consist of 2-3 judges, made up of seasoned and novice judges.

**What are the qualifications needed to be a History Day judge?**

There are no qualifications needed to be a judge. However, judges should possess an interest in history and be comfortable interacting with students and technology, and making decisions. A critical eye as well as the willingness to give your time and provide constructive feedback is important.

**What is the time commitment to be a judge?**

Judges should be prepared to commit at least five to seven hours (8:30 AM to roughly 3:30 PM) the day of the Contest. This includes an orientation followed by examination of student work, interviews with students, and determination of top entries. Judges who review Historical Paper and Website entries have a slightly different schedule with a similar time commitment.

**How do I sign up to become a judge?**

Signing up is easy!

- Visit the MidHudson History Day website [here](#)
- Click on "Create Account" - found in the top menu
- Select "Judge" from the drop-down menu
- You'll be prompted to create a user name and password
- Once your email is confirmed, you'll be asked to select which category you'd like to judge

**How does judging work?**

In general, you will arrive about an hour before judging begins for an orientation. During this orientation, we will review the day's timeline, learn how to use the National History Day scoring sheets, discuss consensus judging, and meet fellow judges. There will also be time for questions and answers. Judging teams will consist of two or three members, with a mix of experienced and novice judges.

Judges evaluate student entries in 10 to 15 minute intervals, with time to interview the student(s) about their project. Once they have seen all the projects, judges will discuss, rank top entries as a team, and write comments, which will be returned to students in the week following the event. Judges are welcome, but not required, to stay for the Awards Ceremony.

### **What kinds of question should I ask the students?**

Questions during the judging process should give the student the opportunity to tell you what they learned while creating their project. The Contest is the students' day to shine! The judge should never talk more than the student, or make them feel as though they have not done enough research. Questions about their research process, sources used, inspirations for the topic, and what they liked about the project are all appropriate questions. Sample questions and a judging rubric will be provided the day of the Contest.

