

NHD How to: CHOOSE a CATEGORY

Individual or Group: Below are some things you should think about when deciding whether you want to work individually or within a group.

Group Work Pro's.

- Multiple minds working on a problem
- Shared experience (shared triumphs, shared pain)
- More people working which means you may go deeper and produce a better project (ex. You can do much more research if there are more researchers on the job)
- Good for you if you are a team player (i.e. you work well with others)
- Good for you if you are willing to trust others to work as hard as you
- Good for you if you are willing to work up to the expectations of others

Group Work Con's:

- Personality conflicts
- Scheduling conflicts
- Mutual distraction
- Group members have different visions & conclusions
- Not allowed if you want to do a paper (see below)

Individual Work Pro's:

- Total control over project; project is yours & yours alone
- Individual glory (or shame)
- Good for you if you are self-motivated & self-disciplined
- Good for you if you have an inflexible schedule
- If you want to do a paper

Individual Work Con's:

- All the pressure is on you alone

Paper, Performance, Documentary or Exhibit: Below are some considerations to ponder as you decide on what medium you want to use for your presentation.

Paper:

- Must be done individually
- You probably have more training on writing a paper than on any other presentation category
- Traditional and familiar
- Low key

Performance:

- Great if you love acting
- Good if you like creative writing because you write the script yourself
- Lots of pressure just before and during show time
- Must create your own set, costumes & props
- Tends to be less competitive (until nationals) because many people avoid this category
- Audience cannot control experience so producers/performers have to carefully lead the audience

Documentary:

- Great if you are good with technology
- Technical glitches can drive you nuts and you have very little tech support
- Multimedia aspects can make these projects the most impressive
- Audience cannot control experience so producers have to carefully lead the audience

Exhibit:

- Great choice if you are very visual and talented in art and spatial organization
- Non-linear—because the exhibit happens all at once, it is difficult to clearly express your thesis as you must try to guide observers but ultimately it is the observer who controls the experience
- Visual—500 word maximum
- Sheer size and aesthetics can create an immediate “wow” effect

Website:

- Must use Weebly
- Great if you are good with technology
 - You have very little tech support from me
- Linear & Non-linear—observer has ultimate controls of the experience but producer can create clear linear experience if observer wants it
- Multimedia & interactive aspects can make these projects very engaging