

How to: PROCESS PAPER

(Go to Rule 14 on page 10 of Contest Rule Book at www.nhd.org for specific instructions & samples)

Process Paper—A “process paper” is a description of no more than 500 words explaining how you conducted your research and created and developed your entry.

- 1 page single spaced
- The process paper must include 1 paragraph on each of the following four topics:
 - (1) Explain how you chose your topic
 - a. Keep this brief (2 sentences)—how you chose your topic is rarely worth elaborating on in much depth. Save your words for more important stuff.
 - b. Clearly Identify your topic
 - c. Reference significance of topic
 - (2) Explain how you conducted your research
 - a. MOST IMPORTANT PARAGRAPH—spend words here (probably more than half)
 - b. Describe your process as a narrative. Tell the story of your research journey.
 - i. Essentially follows a chronological structure
 - ii. Identify what research goals/problems you faced along the way
 - iii. Explain how you addressed those problems and what you learned
 - c. Great opportunity to show your sophisticated critical thinking skills
 - d. Advertise your really important work
 - i. Mention by name your most important and impressive sources
 - (3) Explain how you selected your presentation category and created your project
 - a. Minimize word usage here
 - b. Focus on how you structured and organized your project rather than why you chose that category
 - (4) Explain how your project relates to the NHD theme
 - a. VERY IMPORTANT PARAGRAPH—spend words here
 - b. Treat this paragraph like an introduction to your project
 - i. STATE THESIS HERE—Thesis should speak directly to theme (i.e. how your topic was a turning point)
 - ii. Elaborate on thesis a little (major arguments) but don't introduce evidence
 - iii. Use theme words
 - iv. No grabber