

Student Reflections on National History Day

After completing National History Day last year, students reflected on their experiences:

What did you like about it?

“I enjoyed the creative aspect. Don’t be boring, test yourself, make a website or do a documentary.”

“Becoming an expert on a topic of my choice...”

“The teamwork, I got to know other people very well, it was fun.”

“Choosing groups, having fun while learning.”

“Being able to make a project about what we wanted and how we wanted to make it.”

“The time that was provided.” “I liked watching the other groups’ presentations.”

“I liked how broad the theme was so I could do something I was interested in.”

“Going to compete and actually winning something!”

“I learned a great deal about my topic, and had fun with it.”

“I liked making the websites because it was really different.”

“All the creativity that we could put into it.”

“Working in groups.” “Making my first documentary.”

“Being able to research something we actually were interested in.”

“Going to NHD and competing.” “Making a project about something I loved.”

“Trying something new like a documentary and learning about a new topic.”

“Being able to choose if we wanted to work alone, or in groups with people we wanted to work with.”

“I liked that we were able to go to Augusta.”

“I look at our topic with a much different, and more informed, perspective now.”

What advice would you give to someone starting a NHD project?

“Use time wisely! Doing your project at 1am=not fun.”

“If you do your work ahead, get more evidence than required, spend time everyday (1/2 hour at the least) working on the project, you will succeed.”

“Research a lot and put time into it.”

“Gain as much information as you can. The more research and sources you have, the better the outcome.”

“Don’t wait till the last minute.” “Get right down to business, don’t waste time.”

“Work hard, do your part, and make it fun, don’t waste time.”

“Don’t pick any anchors...seriously.”

“Work hard!” “SPELLCHECK!” “Be ready to go to someone’s house.”

“Pick a good topic, one that interests you. Pick good partner(s), don’t pick any ‘anchors.’”

“Use ALL the time you are given!!! You will be thankful.”

“Stay on schedule because time will be a factor in the end.”

“Do not procrastinate, do not slack off, work hard.”

“STAY ORGANIZED! If you get the assignments done, you will be all set.”

“I would tell them to pick a topic that really interests them.”

“Work as hard as you can with the time you have, and if you’re in a group, really talk to each other about it.”

“Just suck it up and have fun with this☺”

“Don’t procrastinate, it sucks when you’re trying to do everything at the last minute and you can’t enjoy yourself.”

“To look up a topic of interest and to choose the right project for the individual’s/group’s abilities (artistic=exhibit, writing=paper, theater=performance, etc)

Would you recommend going to the National History Day competition?

“Yes, because it is a fun, unique, interesting experience.”

“I would definitely advise next year’s students to compete in the NHD competition in Augusta. It was an awesome experience; one that will stay with me for a really long time.”

“Yes, it is a great experience and fun to meet kids from other schools.”

“Definitely go to NHD, it’s such a great experience. If you win you can go down to Maryland for Nationals and represent Thornton. Plus it’s a day off classes☺

“Yes, because it was a great experience, and very educational. I definitely learned a lot.”

“You should SO go! It was a great time, and lots of new people to meet! (so yeah, you must go!!!)

“Definitely compete, it’s unbelievable fun!”

“Absolutely, it was a lot of fun and we got to hang out all day.”

“Yes because either way when you go and don’t win you still feel good about going.”

“Yes it was mad fresh.”

“Go to Augusta, it’s fun and you learn a lot, don’t do the bare minimum – make your project the best.”

“Yes, because it was an amazing experience.”

“Yes, no school, lots of people and great food.”

“Yes because it’s a great experience and you meet new people.”

“Yes. It was awesome.”

“Yes, it’s fun and makes the project worth it.”

“Yes! It was really fun to go to Augusta, also you get out of school.”

“Yes, because it’s not only a good learning experience, but it’s fun too.”

Beliveau

“Yes, because it’s a good experience, especially if you win! As well as if you don’t you can still interact with students from across Maine.”

“Yes because it was an excellent learning experience and it was a whole lot of fun, meeting new people, seeing all the other contestants’ projects, etc. It gave me a distinct idea on how I would change my project for next year.”

“Yes I would advise them to compete at the state level in Augusta because if you do not win, you will still be competing for special prizes and a group prize for your school, so that you can still be part of your winning school and feel as if you won yourself by participating. Also, being there for your peers to congratulate them for their successes and being part of your school’s success is much better than just being in the newspaper by yourself. Remember, a lot of people read the newspaper, so the word spreads quickly and more people that see that paper will realize that you are smart!”

As in all things in life, you will GET WHAT YOU PUT IN to National History Day! Work hard, and you will have an enjoyable, rewarding learning experience! Good luck!

-Mr. Beliveau