

2022 Guidelines for Creating and Submitting a Performance to a Virtual Contest

Depending on the district and the pandemic circumstances during contest season your contest may be in person or virtual. **These guidelines will help you to prepare for creating and submitting a performance to a virtual contest. In addition to selecting a category that you like (performance is great if you love acting!) you need to keep in mind several other aspects:**

- Does your topic lend itself well to this category?
- Do you have the resources available to complete this category? (Do you have the equipment to record a performance? Will your computer or your phone pick up the sound sufficiently? Do you have a stable internet to record on a conference platform?)
- If you are part of a group, how will you work together considering social distancing requirements? And if your school moves to remote learning, will you be able to continue working together?

What is a historical performance?

A historical performance is a 3D visual and audio representation of your:

- historical argument,
- research, and
- interpretation of your topic's significance in history.

Costumes and props are to support and reinforce your historical argument and interpretation.

The NHD [Contest Rule Book](#) allows you to:

- include projection, mp3 players, computer, or other media within your performance
- wear costumes and include props
- perform for 10 minutes

See pages 25-26 in the updated NHD [Contest Rule Book](#) for performance project rules.

Individual and Group Performance

Weigh the pros and cons of working on a performance alone or with others before you proceed. If you decide to work with a group, you must follow all social distancing guidelines and preventative measures that apply in your state, county, school, or country.

Creating and Submitting Your Performance Entry

Step 1 – Recording Your Performance – Create a Video

Note: Treat the recording as if it is a live performance. Performance rules still apply whether you perform on-site or at a virtual contest.

Performances can be filmed on a camera, phone, or online conferencing platform (Google Meet, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams). These are the recommendations but you are free to use any platform you deem appropriate.

- You are required to follow all social distancing guidelines and preventative measures that

apply in your state, county, and school. We encourage group performances to use an online conferencing platform to record their performance.

- You can utilize your backgrounds and props, wear any relevant costumes, and get creative. However, digital effects are not permitted unless they could be done during a live performance. Most contest settings for performances will have a plain wall or curtain. For your performance, use a plain background or one that you create instead of recording your performance in front of a decorated room in your home or a green screen to which you can add images later. Those settings would not be possible at an on-site contest.
- Any audio recordings, music, or media should be present in the recording as a part of the performance. Audio cannot be added in later.
- It is not necessary to record the 5 minutes of set-up/break-down allotted for your performance.
- Your performance is to be recorded in one take regardless of the recording platform. **Do not** edit multiple clips together or edit in digital effects or audio. Editing of any kind is not permitted.
- Once recorded, create a link to the file that can be viewed by the public. Using Google is free and easy, see the instructions below. When saving the file, use the title of your entry – do not use your name or school.

Step 2: Preparing to submit the required paperwork:

- Combine written materials (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) PDF into a single PDF file. (Free apps for this include [Small PDF](#) and [I Love PDF](#).)
- Save your file with the entry title.
- The final PDF document order must be: title page, process paper, annotated bibliography.

Please see [this video](#) to learn how to combine your PDF documents into one PDF file.

Step 3: Submitting your entry:

All submissions are made through the “Entry” tab which is accessed by selecting “My Profile” under your name in the right hand corner.

- **Entering your video link:**
You may upload your documentary or recording to YouTube to create a link, but it is not recommended. For instructions on uploading your video to a Google Drive and creating a link, click here: [Documentary/Performance Link from Google Drive](#) . Your teacher may be able to set up a classroom Google account - please check with them.
 - 1) Enter the full URL in the Link box.
 - 2) Click “Save” before leaving the page.
- **Uploading your written materials:**
 - 1) Click on “Add File”, “Browse”, and select your PDF. You can enter a caption that will be seen only by the coordinator.
 - 2) Click “Upload File” You will receive a message the upload is complete.
 - 3) Click “Save” before leaving the page.

Note: You can view, print, or download the file by clicking on the file name. You can also upload a new file while viewing and then deleting the current file and starting over on step 1.

Note: If you are working on a group project, only one member uploads the file (the system will automatically connect all members to the uploaded file).

You must upload a new entry for each contest you participate in (for example, you will need to upload a new file when you advance to the state contest).