National History Day: Suggested Timeline

Basic Outline-Fall Semester Course

August/September
Introduction to History Day
- Read rule book and discuss theme
Building Historical Thinking and Research Skills
- How to conduct research; how to construct bibliography
- Primary and secondary sources
Topic and Category Selection
- Work on finding and narrowing topics
- Decide category and group or individual entry

October
Research
- Begin secondary source research using library resources
- Identify additional sources using bibliographies of secondary sources

Mid-October
Research
- Continue secondary source research and begin primary source research
- Make use of digital archives throughout research process
Thesis Development
- Construct strong, clear thesis statement
Project Development
- Begin creating entry
- Identify any images to be used in project

November
Project Development
• Continue constructing entry

Evaluate Progress
• Preliminary bibliography due
• Outline/storyboard/rough draft due
• Thesis statement due

Revision
• Use teacher feedback to improve project

December

Project Development
• Finalize entry
• Present and seek feedback from peers and adults

Evaluate Progress
• Finalize thesis statement
• Final bibliographies due
• Final project due

School and District Competitions
• Prepare for presentation and interview questions at competition
• Present project at regional contests (late February-March)

March/ April*

Revision
• State qualifiers continue to research and improve project based on judges’ feedback from regional competitions

State Competition
• April 23, 2016 at Mercer University, Macon

May/June*

Revision
• National qualifiers revise projects for the national competition
June*

National Competition

- June 12-16: National History Day Contest in College Park, Maryland

*After semester is over in December, students’ projects should be completed, even though they will not compete until the spring semester.