Preparing for the Torrington Regional Contest

Category Specific Information:

**Website:** Your project is due on February 27 two weeks in advance of the actual contest in order to give judges adequate time to review your project. Make sure your website SAVES one last time before the website deadline. Website students are required to attend the contest and be interviewed by the judges. You will learn your interview time when you arrive and check-in. While your process paper and annotated bibliography are part of your website, you may wish to bring paper copies for your own reference.

**Paper:** Your project is due on February 27 two weeks in advance of the actual contest in order to give judges adequate time to review your project. You must upload your paper (as instructed in the registration system) as a PDF by the paper deadline. Paper students are required to attend the contest and participate in a paper seminar with judges. While other categories have individual interviews, paper students meet with fellow paper writers and judges in a seminar-type format. The time of the paper seminar will be listed in the program schedule. You may want to bring a copy of your paper for your own reference.

**Documentary:** Documentaries are often plagued by technical difficulties, so make sure to bring your documentary in several formats: on a DVD; thumb drive; and, if possible on a laptop. Cloud-based platforms may not be available. Bring four copies of your process paper and annotated bibliography. On the day of the contest, you will find out your presentation time when you check-in. When it is time for your presentation, give the judges copies of your annotated bibliography and process paper. Then, get your documentary ready to play. Let the judges know if you encounter any technical difficulty. The judges will let you know when to start. Announce the title of your documentary, introduce yourselves and then start your documentary. At the conclusion of your documentary, the judges will have a few questions for you. Make sure you have at least one set of your paperwork with you before you leave the room. Audiences are allowed in the documentary rooms but they may not enter or exit during presentations and interviews.

**Exhibit:** Bring four copies of your process paper and annotated bibliography to the contest. Exhibit students should check-in the morning of the contest and then set up their exhibit. While your parents may help you carry your exhibit to the exhibit hall, only the students who worked on the project may set it up. Leave three copies of your annotated bibliography and process paper with your exhibit. Keep one copy of your paperwork with you. The judges will have time alone in the exhibit hall to review projects. About ten to fifteen minutes before your interview, go to the doors of the exhibit hall. You will be called in when it is time for your interview. Once your interview is completed, exit the exhibit hall. You will need to come back and take down your exhibit later in the day at the time listed in the program.

**Performance:** On the day of the contest, you will find out your performance time when you arrive to check-in. There will be an area in which to store your props. About 10-15 minutes before your performance time, bring your props to either the back of the room or to the hallway outside of the room. When it is your turn, bring in your props and then give the judges copies of your annotated bibliography and process paper. Then set up your props (if you have any). You will have five minutes for set up. The judges will let you know when they are ready for you to begin. Your time will begin after you introduce yourselves and announce the title of your project. At the conclusion of your performance, the judges will have a few questions for you. Make sure you have at least one set of your paperwork with you before you
leave the room. Audiences are allowed in the performance rooms but they may not enter or exit during performances and interviews.

**What to bring with you on Contest Day?**

**Paperwork & project materials**
- Exhibit, Performance, Documentary students: bring four copies of your process paper and annotated bibliography.
- Documentary students: bring your documentary on a DVD, thumb drive and laptop.
- Performance students: bring your props, costumes and script.
- Website & Paper students: bring one copy of your annotated bibliography and (for websites) process paper.

**Other things to bring**
- The Torrington High School PTO will be selling food. Bring food with you and/or cash to purchase food. There are restaurants located within driving distance of Torrington High School.
- Bring cash if you want to purchase a Connecticut History Day t-shirt. They cost $5-12.
- You might also want to bring:
  - A book or other reading material
  - Homework
  - A game or playing cards
- Your phone - take pictures during the day and post using hashtag #CHD2020 and #CTHistoryDay

**What to Expect On Contest Day:**

Contest days are long, beginning with student check in (7:45-8:45 a.m.) and ending at the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony (usually 2:00 p.m.) Students may leave after their presentations as they do not have to be present to receive an award.

Activities will be offered at each contest. Please see the section below and check the program to see what fun things are being offered!

Be an audience member! Audiences are welcome at the paper seminars, website, documentary and performance presentations. The exhibit hall will be open to audience members around lunchtime.

You will be able to pick up your evaluation forms following the Awards Ceremony.

**The Wi-Fi** For those bringing laptops or other electronic devices, you should be able to access Wi-Fi at Torrington High School through the TPS-BYOD network.

**Activities:**
Enjoy playing board games! There will be a room at Torrington High School designated for board games.

You are welcome to be audience members for performances, documentaries, websites and paper seminars. Tour the exhibits at 12:30 p.m.

At 1 p.m., please enjoy a performance by MJK Music in the Little Theatre.
The Interview:
Students often become very nervous about being interviewed by a team of judges. Judges are excited to meet you, the students, and they are not trying to make you nervous. Interviews are not judged. The purpose of interviews (and paper seminars) is to allow you, the student, an opportunity to share your knowledge. Judges will have questions for you; an interview is not a presentation.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your Regional Coordinator.

- Fairfield: Tony Andrade at tony48nhd@gmail.com
- Hartford: Nicole Sousa at nicole.sousa@ctpublicaffairsnetwork.org
- Mansfield/Storrs: Cyndee McManaman at cyndee67nhd@gmail.com
- New Haven: Khalil Quotap at kquotap@newhavenmuseum.org
- Norwich: Elizabeth Porter at lizporter1976@gmail.com
- Torrington: Lou Bucceri at lbucceri@housatonicheritage.org