Connecticut History Day
2023 State Contest Results

Junior Division

Category: Papers

First Place: Katharine Hepburn: Forging Frontiers in Female Fashion
School: Timothy Edwards Middle School (South Windsor)
Student: Rachel Mathew

Second Place: An Unexpected Frontier: How the Civil War Exposed Medical Shortfalls and Prompted Change
School: Bedford Middle School (Westport)
Student: Blake Carlson

Third Place: Here, There and Everywhere: How the Beatles Reinvented Popular Music
School: Worthington Hooker School (New Haven)
Student: Azalea Deener

Category: Individual Documentary

First Place: Hedy Lamarr: The Brains Behind The Beauty That Revolutionized Frequency Cybernetics, Creating The Basis For Most Modern Day Technologies
School: Talcott Mountain Academy (Avon)
Student: Rhea Doshi

Second Place: Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)
School: Sedgwick Middle School (West Hartford)
Student: Luke Kalke

Third Place: One Step At a Time: The Story of J. E. Hanger
School: Timothy Edwards Middle School (South Windsor)
Student: Charlotte Zhang

Category: Group Documentary

Bill Brayfield Prize for First Place Junior Group Documentary
First Place: From the Farmland to the Runway: How Denim Revolutionized the Fashion Industry Through Affordability and Transformative Styles
School: Bedford Middle School (Westport)
Students: Siri Klassen, Gargi Karve, Elise Yan
Second Place: The War of 1812: An Opportunity  
School: Intermediate School (Shelton)  
Students: Payton Severs, Stephanie Sanborn

Third Place: Camera to Court: Focusing the Lens on the Revolution of Child Labor  
School: Irving A. Robbins Middle School (Farmington)  
Students: Irene Cho, Lauren Rock

Category: Individual Exhibit

First Place: Love Canal: A Precedent for Chemical Contamination Catastrophes and a Legacy of Environmental Advocacy  
School: Ellington Middle School (Ellington)  
Student: Emmett Smith

Second Place: Noah Webster: A Revolutionary Polymath  
School: Crystal Lake School (Ellington)  
Student: Sanchaya Vibranarayanan

Third Place: Second Wave: How the Women of the 1960s Cracked the Glass Ceiling of Sexism in Employment  
School: Sedgwick Middle School (West Hartford)  
Student: Caroline Wentland

Category: Group Exhibit

First Place: Helen Keller: Changing How We See Disabilities  
School: Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School (Regional School District 18)  
Students: Charlie McEwen, Liam McCormick

Second Place: A Journey into How Deaf Education Has Evolved Over Time  
School: Vernon Center Middle School (Vernon)  
Students: Makayla Farris, Sarah Rizzo

Third Place: Rosalind Franklin & the Frontier Fracturing Photos  
School: Scotts Ridge Middle School (Ridgefield)  
Students: Krishaa Bhattacharjee, Claire Yang

Category: Individual Performance

Wayne Smith Memorial Award for First Place Junior Individual Performance

First Place: The Janes: A Frontier for Women's Reproductive Healthcare  
School: Pine Point School (Stonington)  
Student: Emma Frisbie
Second Place: Victoria Woodhull: The First Woman to Run for President
School: Pine Point School (Stonington)
Student: Dorothy Kearney

Third Place: Mercy Otis Warren: Writing For Freedom
School: Timothy Edwards Middle School (South Windsor)
Student: Emma O'Brien

Category: Group Performance

First Place: Steinem vs. Schlafly: The Ongoing Battle for Women's Equality
School: Timothy Edwards Middle School (South Windsor)
Students: CC Dresser, Rayna Reed

Category: Individual Website

First Place: Penicillin: The Antibiotic Breakthrough that Impacted Worldwide Bacterial History
School: Madina Academy (Windsor)
Student: Noor Hassan

Second Place: How Amateur Radio Changed the Nation
School: Coleytown Middle School (Westport)
Student: Jonah Frey

Third Place: The Pequot Defeat: Shifting the Social Landscape of Colonial Connecticut
School: Irving A. Robbins Middle School (Farmington)
Student: Alexandra Czyz

Category: Group Website

First Place: The Creation of The Internet
School: Westside Middle School Academy (Danbury)
Students: Alexander Barry, Joseph Nigro

Second Place: American Sign Language: The Impact it made on Deaf People
School: Madina Academy (Windsor)
Students: Taqwa Bedir, Sarah Elsherbini

Third Place: The Gutenberg Printing Press: Opening the Door to Middle-Class Education
School: Mansfield Middle School (Mansfield)
Students: Theodore Cormier, Willis Solomon Marcy
Senior Division

Category: Papers

Bruce Fraser Prize for First Place Senior Paper
First Place: Foreign Mud, Local Landslide: The Struggle Over Economic, Political, and Diplomatic Policies on the Chinese Maritime Frontier in the Prelude to the First Opium War
School: South Windsor High School (South Windsor)
Student: Rishabh Mohapatra

School: Yang Homeschool (South Glastonbury)
Student: Abigail Yang

Third Place: The Final Piece of the Puzzle - Gregor Mendel's Completion of Darwin's Theory of Evolution
School: Ellington High School (Ellington)
Student: David Slotter

Category: Individual Documentary

First Place: Frontiers in "Mental Hygiene": How Clifford W. Beers Shifted Attitudes Towards Mental Health
School: High School in the Community (New Haven)
Student: Jonaily Colon

Second Place: Operation Sunshine: How Crossing the Polar Frontier Allowed America to Step Out from Sputnik's Shadow
School: Conard High School (West Hartford)
Student: Claire Flynn

Third Place: African American Directors: A New Frontier in Film
School: Brunswick School (Greenwich)
Student: Will Schmitz

Category: Group Documentary

First Place: The Scottsboro Tragedy: The Trials That Transformed Civil Rights and the Judicial System
School: Madina Academy (Windsor)
Students: Salma Mahmoud, Ghita Elamrani
Second Place: Women's Fashion in World War II: A Frontier in Female Identity  
School: Greenwich High School (Greenwich)  
Students: Charles Andrew Miranda, Jane Stempien, Hanna Klingbeil Canale, Avery Imp, Nicole Orlofsk

Third Place: MJC: Military M.D.  
School: Norwich Free Academy (Norwich)  
Students: Ruby Chiu, Emily Hong

Category: Individual Exhibit

First Place: "Hold On To The Land": The Treaty of Hartford and its Eradication of Pequot Frontiers  
School: E.O. Smith High School (Storrs-Mansfield)  
Student: Mary Lynch

Second Place: The Boom Heard 'Round the World: the Development and Deployment of the Atomic Bomb  
School: Staples High School (Westport)  
Student: Kate Rodriguez

Third Place: Billy Mitchell The Crusade for U.S. Airpower  
School: Rockville High School (Vernon)  
Student: Nicolas Angeli

Category: Group Exhibit

First Place: Unfathomed Depths of Understanding: The Challenger's Voyage into the Unknown  
School: E.O. Smith High School (Storrs-Mansfield)  
Students: Amanda Zadnik, Simonne Thibeault

Second Place: Laying Down Frontiers of the Future: The Transcontinental Railroad's Economic and Cultural Influence  
School: Staples High School (Westport)  
Students: Evan Wallitt, Claudia Trinch, Oliver Oren, Perrin Root

Third Place: The Impact of the British Empire in South Asia  
School: Pathways Academy of Technology and Design (Hartford)  
Students: Manyata Pathania, Margaret Rebeiro
**Category: Individual Performance**

**Wayne Smith Memorial Award for First Place Senior Individual Performance**

First Place: *Food Network; pioneering opportunities for women in the culinary industry*

School: Staples High School (Westport)

Student: Camille Mergenthaler

**Category: Group Performance**

First Place: *Clara Barton’s Advocacy for the Geneva Treaty: A Frontier in American History Implementing International Humanitarian Laws*

School: Madina Academy (Windsor)

Students: Deana Khatib, Tasneem Zoghol, Fatima Khan, Zainah Khaliq

Second Place: *The Wilde Trials: Pioneering Discussions about Homosexuality*

School: E.O. Smith High School (Storrs-Mansfield)

Students: Kalyani Tihaiya, Mia Chen, Kayla Lin

Third Place: *Operation Donnie Brasco: Convicting the American Mafia*

Schools: Arts at the Capitol Theater Magnet School (Willimantic) & Rockville High School (Vernon)

Students: Clarissa Halpryn, John Margelony

**Category: Individual Website**

First Place: *Televised debates and the effect, Nixon v. Kennedy*

School: Brunswick (Greenwich)

Student: Nina Lux

Second Place: *红龙之征途: 华人移民经历 hóng lóng zhī zhēngtú: huárén yímín jīnglì The Journey of the Red Dragon: The Chinese Immigration Experience*

School: Norwich Free Academy (Norwich)

Student: Amy Zhang

Third Place: *New Orbits: How Valentina Tereshkova Propelled Progress on Two Fronts*

School: Wilbur Cross High School (New Haven)

Student: Ila Sundstrom

**Category: Group Website**

First Place: *The Vietnam War Memorial: How Maya Lin Revolutionized Memorial Design*

School: Wilbur Cross High School (New Haven)

Students: Magda Lena Griffel, Sophia Zhang
Second Place: Janis Joplin: Crossing Frontiers in Blues and Rock Music
School: Norwich Free Academy (Norwich)
Students: Amelia Tart, Brooke Romanski

Third Place: From TV Dinners to Fast Food Nation: The Cultural Impact of Processed Foods in America
School: Staples High School (Westport)
Students: Levi Nevstad, Elliot Galin, Jake Wadley, William Fleming