Historical Websites

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Why choose a website?

Pros	Cons
• You can use visuals AND text • This is an opportunity to learn the basics of web design • This is a format that is easy to edit	• Limited word count • Weak and disorganized websites are very noticeable

Some of the Rules! (Make sure to review all of the rules in the History Day handbook)

- Websites must be created using the National History Day website editor
- Professionally created images and visuals must be properly cited
- Original narrative is limited to 1,200 words
- Brief identifications of illustrations and quotations do not count toward the word limit
- The site must meet the 100 MB limit
- There must be a homepage with authorship, entry title, entry division, 2 word counts (original narrative and process paper), and main menu clearly listed
- Use hypertext links to connect pages
- No automatic redirects
- Multimedia must be limited to 4 minutes total
- All documents or multimedia clips used must be contained on the website itself
- You can record a dramatic reading of a primary source quote, however, you are not allowed to record a reading of your original narrative
- If your multimedia clips require special software, you must include a link that will direct viewers to free access to that software

Organization

Tips for Using Visuals

- Use many visuals in an organized fashion.
- Visuals can include audio and video clips.
- Be creative and use a variety of visuals including (but not limited to): maps, timelines, graphs, charts, photos of primary sources, cultural products, newspaper headlines, etc.
- Assume your viewer has little background knowledge of your topic and provide short captions for visuals.
- Have a purpose for visuals and multimedia. Only use visuals and multimedia if they ADD to your argument. Make the purpose clear.
- Analyze your visuals.
- Make sure that background music has a purpose and is not distracting.
- When using multimedia clips, make sure that the viewer is "caught up" on the clip if you are doing your own editing.
- Use quotes that directly contribute to the argument on the page.

Tips Regarding Research and Analysis

- Take the time to do your research thoroughly.
- Create a thesis statement after you conduct your research.
- Remember to think about the "so what" in regard to your thesis statement.
- Revise your thesis statement.
- USE your research.
- Provide background information (historical context).
- Use topic and summarizing sentences.
- Craft a strong conclusion!
- Revise, revise, revise!

What did these student historians do well?

What could these student historians improve on?