

National History Day

Paperwork Requirements

1. Everything must be typed! Don't use fancy fonts that would be hard to read.
2. Your process paper should be no more than 500 words (1-2 pages), and it should be **double-spaced**. The first paragraph explains how you chose your topic. The second paragraph explains how you conducted your research, and who helped you find information. The third paragraph explains the steps you took to create your exhibit. The fourth paragraph explains how your project relates to the National History Day theme: "Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events."
3. Your Annotated Bibliography should include every helpful resource you find.
4. Print 3 copies of everything and staple each copy in the upper left corner. Do not put your paperwork in a folder. You need 3 copies so that there are enough copies to go around for the interviewers.

Sample Process Paper

Sir Isaac Newton Takes a Stand for Gravity

Rebecca Van Auken
Alex Smith

Group Exhibit
Youth Division

In our science class we studied space exploration. We learned people did not always believe planets revolve around the sun. We wondered who came up with the idea of an elliptical

First paragraph should explain how you chose your topic.

orbit, which led us to Sir Isaac Newton. We were amazed that even though he did not actually know what gravity was, he came up with a theory for it, and from that decided planets travel around our sun in an elliptical orbit. Sir Isaac Newton convinced others his ideas were correct. We thought his story would be perfect for this year's National History Day theme, "Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events."

Second paragraph should explain how you conducted your research, and who helped you find information.

To research our topic, we visited the school library to read about Sir Isaac Newton in an encyclopedia. This gave us general information about his life, some important dates, and related topics, such as motion, laws of motion, gravity, and force. We used these topics to find more facts, especially on the Internet, by using the search engine called "Google." One interesting place we located information was a coffee Web site called Lucidcafe.com, where we learned about Dr. Robert A. Hatch, a professor at the University of Florida who is an expert on Sir Isaac Newton. We wrote to him. He suggested we contact Professor William Newman at Indiana University, who is duplicating Newton's experiments in alchemy. Our school librarian suggested some books, but there weren't very many about Sir Isaac Newton. We visited the Urbandale Library, where Linda Weiser, the Youth Services Librarian, helped us find additional books. We were excited that PBS broadcast a special NOVA film in November called "Newton's Dark Secrets." This was a fascinating program!

During our reading, we found illustrations of Isaac Newton and diagrams of his theories. We decided we could use these in an exhibit. We also found information about other events happening in the world at the same time, especially about other scientists. We decided to use this information in a timeline. We wanted our display to be interactive, so we decided to create windows on our board that have a question on the windowpane, but when you lift the window, the answer is revealed. We also decided to create two stands that would each hold a mobile of our solar system—first as people imagined it before Sir Isaac Newton came up with the idea of an elliptical orbit, and secondly after he published his ideas in a work called *Principia*.

Third paragraph should explain how you divided up your work (if you have a partner), and the steps you took in creating your exhibit.

Our topic fits the theme of “Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events” because Sir Isaac Newton had to convince people his theories about gravity, the laws of motion and the elliptical orbit of the planets were correct. If Sir Isaac Newton had not come up with these theories, space exploration as we know it today might never have taken place, or perhaps might have taken place later. There were some other scientists in Newton’s time who had similar ideas, but Newton was the first to publish his ideas.

The fourth paragraph should explain how your project relates to the National History Day theme, “Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events.” If you are researching a person, what would have happened if this person did not do the things you describe? If you’re describing a place or a product, what would have happened without it?

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Resources

Internet

Royal Society, The. The Newton Project. [Online] Available:

<http://www.newtonproject.ic.ac.uk/index.html>, August 11, 2005.

This Web site contains all of Newton's writings. Although we had trouble understanding the language on this Web site, it gave us the "flavor" of the language in Newton's time.

Letter

Newman, Dr. William. Letter to Alex Smith. 3 March 2006.

Professor Newman sent us some photos of the experiments he is duplicating from Newton's work in alchemy. We decided to use these photos on our exhibit board.

Although the photos aren't really primary material, they represent what Newton once did.

Secondary Resources

Books

No author. New Concise World Atlas. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

When we read that Sir Isaac Newton was born in Woolsthorpe, England, we used this atlas to locate his birthplace. We used a miniature copy of this map on our display board and marked Newton's birthplace with a red dot.

Allan, Tony. Groundbreakers: Isaac Newton. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2001.

This biography about Sir Isaac Newton provided us with detailed information about Newton's personal life, the world around him, his experiments in light and alchemy, and his work in *Principia*. We learned that his discoveries inspired inventors and engineers to make machines and engines, clocks and measuring devices, trains, cars and spacecraft.

We used this information to create a chart on our display board called "Did you know?"

Mulherin, Jenny, editor. Giants of Science. New York: Marshall Cavendish Corporation, 1991.

This book provided a lot of detailed information about Sir Isaac Newton's personal life, and about his work as a scientist. Especially helpful were photos of his reflecting telescope, the school he attended as a young boy, and portraits of Newton and two of his contemporaries, philosopher John Locke and scientist Edmond Halley, who predicted the return of the comet Halley. We used these photos on our display board.

Parker, Steve. Science Discoveries: Isaac Newton and Gravity. Chelsea House Publishers: New York, 1995.

This book contained an excellent timeline about the world in Newton's time. We selected facts from science, exploration, politics and art, and included them in a timeline on our display board.

Encyclopedia Article

"Sir Isaac Newton," The World Book Encyclopedia. 1969, Vol. 14.

We used this book to get some background information about Sir Isaac Newton. It also provided us with some keywords, or related topics, about Sir Isaac Newton, that then led us to other information.

Internet

Chew, Robin. Sir Isaac Newton: Scientist and Mathematician. [Online] Available: <http://www.lucidcafe.com/library/95dec/newton.html>, September 2, 2005.

This was one of the first Web pages we visited on the Internet, after reading about Newton in an encyclopedia. This Web page gave us general background information about Newton, but more importantly, it gave us a link to Professor Robert Hatch, an expert on Sir Isaac Newton. We wrote to him for information.

Hatch, Robert A. Isaac Newton Biography: Newton's Life, Career, Work. [Online] Available: <http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhatch/pages/01-Courses/current-courses/08sr-newton.htm>, January 2002.

This Web site provided some detailed information on Newton in summary form. More importantly, it gave us an address where we could write Professor Hatch and ask him for help in finding primary material. He referred us to The Newton Project, a Web site where all of Newton's work is published, but also to Professor Newman of Indiana University, who is duplicating Newton's experiments in alchemy.

Newton's Alchemy, revisited. [Online] Available: <http://www.indiana.edu/~college/WilliamNewmanProject.shtml>, March 3, 2003.

After we wrote a letter to Professor Robert A. Hatch of the University of Florida, he suggested we contact Professor William Newman at Indiana University, who is duplicating Newton's experiments in alchemy. He gave us this Web site so we could read a little bit about Professor's Newman's research.

Letter

Hatch, Dr. Robert A. Letter to Rebecca Van Auken. 31 January 2006.

Because we wanted to hear from an expert on Newton, we wrote Professor Hatch at the University of Florida. He suggested we write Professor William Newman at Indiana University. He told us that Professor Newman is duplicating Newton's experiments in alchemy.

Television Program

"Newton's Dark Secrets," Nova, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), Boston, 15 November 2005.

This program helped us understand how Newton came to publish his ideas about an elliptical orbit in his *Principia*. It also gave us some information about his personal life, and how he came to be knighted.

How to Type an Annotated Bibliography

How Cite Sources

Hint: Divide your resources into two categories, **Primary Resources** and **Secondary Resources**. Under each category, subdivide your resources and list them alphabetically. For example, you might have both Books and Letters under “Primary Resources.” You might have both Books and Videos listed under “Secondary Resources.”

Books

(includes biography, non-fiction and books with editors)

How to do it:

Author’s name. (Last name, first name and middle initial) Title of book. City published: publishing company, year.

Annotation (Explain how this book was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

Banner, Lois W. Elizabeth Cady Stanton: A Radical for Women’s Rights. Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1980.

Annotation (Explain how this book was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

CD-ROM References

(includes encyclopedias, dictionaries and other references)

How to do it:

Title. Version. Computer software. Company, Date. Computer operating system.

Annotation (Explain how this CD-ROM was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

Wordstar Professional. Version 4. Computer software. MicroPro, 1987. MAC 2.0

Annotation (Explain how this CD was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Encyclopedia Article

(book version)

How to do it:

“Title of article (in quotes),” Name of encyclopedia underlined. Year published, Vol. number.
Annotation (Explain how this encyclopedia article was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

“Anthony, Susan B.,” Compton’s Encyclopedia, 1983. Vol. 2.
Annotation (Explain how this encyclopedia article was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Letter Received by Author (Yourself)

How to do it:

Name of writer. Letter to the author. Date.
Annotation (Explain how this letter was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

Fancher, Terry. Letter to the author. 10 Jan., 1998.
Annotation (Explain how this letter was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Magazine Article

(paper version)

How to do it:

“Title of article (in quotes),” Name of magazine underlined, date of magazine, pages used.
Annotation (Explain how this magazine article was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

“The U.S. Goes to War,” Time, XXXVIII December 1941, pp. 56-65.
Annotation (Explain how this magazine article was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Newspaper (paper version)

How to do it:

“Title of article (in quotes),” Name of newspaper, date, page.

Annotation (Explain how this newspaper article was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

“Pearl Harbor is Attacked,” Sandusky Register, December 8, 1941, p. 1

Annotation (Explain how this newspaper article was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Personal Interview

How to do it:

Person interviewed, personal interview, date.

Annotation (Explain how this personal interview was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

Sen. Tom Harkin, personal interview, 15 Jan. 2000.

Annotation (Explain how this personal interview was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Television and Radio Programs

How to do it:

“Title of Segment,” (in quotes) Name of Program (underlined), Network, City. Date.

Annotation (Explain how this television or radio program was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

“Doomsday Flu,” History Undercover, History Channel, New York, 22. Jan. 2000.

Annotation (Explain how this television or radio program was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Internet

(list the information you can find in the order described; skip it if you can't find it)

How to do it:

Author. Title of item. [Online] Available: <http://address/filename>, date of document or download, if document is not available.

Annotation (Explain how this Internet item was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

Yule, James. The Cold War Revisited: A Splintered Germany. [Online] Available: http://usa.coldwar.server.gov/index/coldwar/countries/former.soviet_block_Germany/germany.html, November 5, 1996.

Annotation (Explain how this Internet item was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Videotapes, DVDs, Slide Programs, Filmstrips

(list the information you can find in the order described; skip it if you can't find it)

How to do it:

Title (underlined), videocassette (or type of item), producer, year (length).

Annotation (Explain how this audiovisual item was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)

Example:

Going Back, A Return to Vietnam, videotape, Virginia Productions, 1982 (55 min.).

Annotation (Explain how this audiovisual item was used and how it helped in understanding the topic, as well as whether it is primary or secondary.)