



IV. Individual Category Rules

★ A. Paper

A paper is the traditional form of presenting historical research. Various types of creative writing (e.g., fictional diaries, poems, etc.) are permitted, but must conform to all general and category rules. Your paper should be grammatically correct and well written.

Part III, Rules for all Categories (pages 11-14), except for Rule 15, applies to papers.

A1	Length Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Papers must be between 1,500 and 2,500 words.■ Each word or number in the text of the paper counts as one word. This includes student-composed text as well as quotes from primary or secondary sources.■ The 2,500-word limit does not apply to notes, the annotated bibliography, illustration captions, and appendix material. Appendix material must be referenced in the text of the paper. Extensive supplemental materials are inappropriate. Use of appendices should be very limited and may include photographs, maps, charts, and/or graphs only. <p><i>NOTE: Oral history transcripts, correspondence between you and experts, questionnaires, and other primary or secondary materials used as sources for your paper should be cited in your bibliography but not included as attachments/appendices to your paper.</i></p>
A2	Citations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Citations—footnotes, endnotes, or internal documentation—are required.■ Citations are used to credit the sources of specific ideas as well as direct quotations.■ Refer to Part III, Rule 18, for citation styles. Please note that an extensively annotated footnote should not be used to get around the word limit.



A3	Preparation Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Papers must be typed or computer printed on plain, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper with 1-inch margins on all sides.■ Pages must be numbered consecutively and double-spaced with writing on one side and in 12-point font.■ Papers must be stapled in the top left corner and should not be enclosed in a cover or binder. Refer to Part III, Rule 14, for title page requirements.■ See Figure 3 for an example of a properly formatted page.
A4	Entry Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ For NHD-CA you must upload a PDF of your final paper and annotated bibliography by the established contest deadline.■ Consult the <i>NHD-CA Contest Guide</i> located under the “Contests” tab at www.nhdca.org for more information about entry submissions for this category. Check with your county coordinator for entry procedures for your local competition.■ Keep in mind that paper submission deadlines are typically 2-3 weeks prior to county and state contest dates.





FIGURE 3 | SAMPLE PAPER PAGE

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The second issue debated at the Yalta Conference was the destiny of the Polish state. The Polish nation fluctuated between existence and partition throughout European history. After World War I, the Treaty of Versailles created the modern Polish state. In 1939, Germany demanded land and economic concessions from the nation, and the Polish government refused to concede to these demands. On March 31, 1939, Poland signed an agreement with Great Britain and France in which these nations promised to provide aid to Poland if attacked by Germany. On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland with two army groups while stationing the German navy to prevent a British attack from the sea.¹ Warsaw was surrounded by September 17, and after heavy bombing raids, surrendered ten days later.²

Poland was overrun quickly, “with a speed that astonished the rest of the world.”³ The Polish government and military leaders fled to France, and later to London. Poland remained occupied for most of the war. Soviet troops finally took control of Warsaw in January 1945. Poland was largely “written off at Yalta,” despite the fact that it fought with the Allied powers in exile.⁴

The representative at the Yalta Conference made the following decision regarding the Polish state:

A new situation has been created in Poland as a result of her complete liberation by the Red Army. This calls for the establishment of a Polish Provisional Government...which is now functioning in Poland should therefore be reorganized on a broader democratic basis with the inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad. This new Government should then be called the Polish Provisional Government of National Unity.⁵

As World War II began to shift in favor of the Allies, it became evident that several questions

¹ James L. Stokesbury, *A Short History of World War II* (New York, Harper, 1980), 69-71.
² John Keegan, *The Second World War* (New York: Penguin, 1989), 46.
³ Stokesbury, *A Short History of World War II*, 75.
⁴ Keegan, *The Second World War*, 542.
⁵ “The Yalta Agreement,” The Avalon Project, Yale Law School, last modified 2008, accessed January 3, 2014, <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/wwii/yalta.asp>

PAPER CHECKLIST

- 1,500 – 2,500 words, excluding notes, annotated bibliography, and title page
- Title page includes only: title of entry, name, division, category, and number of student-composed words
- PDF uploaded by contest deadline
- Annotated bibliography, separated into primary and secondary sources
- Clearly links topic to theme and demonstrates exploration of the entire theme
- Demonstrates significance of topic in history
- Citations provided within the body of the paper
- Demonstrates wide and balanced research and use of primary sources
- Historically accurate
- Shows interpretation and analysis
- Places topic in historical context
- Presentation of topic is creative, original, and well organized
- Follows copyright laws