



## 2026 NHD National Contest Documentary Submission Instructions

You must submit your Written Materials (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) by the National Contest registration deadline of **Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Judges will review the Written Materials and the documentary before the National Contest.

You **must bring two printed copies** of your Written Materials to the National Contest. If you make changes to your written materials between the registration deadline and the National Contest, you **must highlight the changes (in yellow)** in the two copies you bring to the contest. If your project advances to the final round, you will not need to provide additional copies. The final-round judges will receive a copy from the first-round judging team.

During registration, you must upload an MP4 of your documentary. This does not need to be a finalized documentary version; it is for judges to preview before the contest and have it in your account as a backup. This is also necessary if you submit your documentary for a showcase during registration.

Here are some helpful upload specs for your documentary. The file size upload limit is 1 GB. **Resolution:** Set to **720p** (1280x720) for the video resolution, **Frame Rate:** Set to **30 fps** (Frames per second), **Video Codec:** Set the video codec to **H.264 (x264)**.

### Adding Paperwork and Documentary Link During Registration

To submit your required Written Materials and documentary link, please follow these steps:

- Go to the National Contest registration website and log in to your NHD student profile.
- Under **Important Links**, click **View & Edit Profile**.
- Select the **Entry** tab.
- Upload your PDF file (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) into the **Written Materials** field. If you already have a file uploaded to your profile, you can delete and replace it with your updated file.
  - Need help creating a single PDF? To combine your required paperwork (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) into **a single PDF file**, you can use free apps to combine multiple documents into one PDF, such as [Small PDF](#) and [I Love PDF](#). **The final PDF document order must be: title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography.**
- Upload your MP4 file in the **Documentary Upload** field.
- Click **Save**. That's it!

We will test all uploads and PDFs and contact you if there are problems with the files.

### zFairs Registration System View

Will this be a Team Project

Description\*

Judging Time Preference\*

**Written Materials (Upload One PDF with Title Page, Process Paper, Annotated Bibliography) You can upload this now or log back in before the registration deadline to upload.**

**Documentary Upload**



## **Bringing Your Documentary to the NHD Contest**

Please prepare your documentary in multiple formats to avoid technical difficulties during your judging time. These include:

- Laptop — all documentary rooms will have HDMI/VGA connections
- USB flash drive with an MP4 file of your documentary
- Playable file in Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox, SmugMug, etc.

The following equipment will be provided in the documentary judging rooms:

- Desktop PC computer with USB port, internet connection, HDMI, and VGA cables
- Projector/projection screen

***Please note:*** Documentary judging takes place in various classrooms across the UMD College Park campus. No DVD players will be available in the classrooms. It is essential to test formats before your judging time.



## 2026 National Contest Exhibit Submission Instructions

You must submit your Written Materials (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) by the National Contest registration deadline of **Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Judges will review the Written Materials before the National Contest.

You **must bring two printed copies** of your Written Materials to the National Contest. One copy will go to the judges, and the other will remain in front of your exhibit project in the exhibit hall. If you make changes to your Written Materials between the registration deadline and the National Contest, you **must highlight the changes (in yellow)** in the two copies you bring to the contest.

During registration, you must upload a photo of your exhibit (JPG file format). This does not need to be a finalized version of the exhibit; it is just a photo to keep in your account as a backup.

To submit your required Written Materials, please follow these steps:

- Go to the National Contest registration website and log in to your NHD student profile.
- Under **Important Links**, click **View & Edit Profile**.
- Select the **Entry** tab.
- Upload your PDF file (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) into the **Written Materials** field. If you already have a file uploaded to your profile, you must delete and replace it with your updated file.
  - Need help creating a single PDF? To combine your required paperwork (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) into **a single PDF file**, you can use free apps to combine multiple documents into one PDF, such as [Small PDF](#) and [I Love PDF](#). **The final PDF document order must be: title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography.**
- Click **Save**. That's it!

We will test all PDFs and contact you if there are problems with the files.

### zFairs Registration System View

Category\*

Each exhibit will receive table space and access to an electrical outlet. If you have any questions or special requests, please email [register@nhd.org](mailto:register@nhd.org) by Monday, June 2, 2025.

Will this be a Team Project

Description\*

Judging Time Preference

**Written Materials (Upload One PDF with Title Page, Process Paper, Annotated Bibliography) You can upload this now or log back in before the registration deadline to upload.**

**Exhibit Photo This is an single photo of your exhibit (either JPG or PNG format). You can upload this now or log back in before the registration deadline to upload.**



### **Bringing Your Exhibit to the NHD National Contest**

You can ship your exhibit to the University of Maryland. If you are shipping your exhibit, you **must use the handling label available for purchase within the online registration system.** Please remember that this is only a handling and storage fee that ensures your exhibit will be delivered to the Prince George's Room in the Stamp Student Union. You are still responsible for arranging and paying for the shipment of your exhibit.

Electricity will be provided for all exhibits, but please bring your own extension cord. If your exhibit needs floor space, it must fit within a 4ft x 4ft square. Please note your floor space request during registration.

All exhibit projects will be judged in the Stamp Student Union (on the same floor as the Prince George's Room).

**Please note:** Maryland weather is often hot and humid during the NHD National Contest. Please prepare accordingly. Bring extra glue and/or tape to ensure exhibit pieces adhere to your project.



## 2026 National Contest Paper Submission Instructions

You must submit your project and Written Materials (title page, process paper, paper, and annotated bibliography) by the National Contest registration deadline of **Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Changes cannot be made to the project or the paperwork after the registration deadline, as the judges will begin reviewing the materials.

You **must bring two printed copies** of your paper (title page, process paper, paper, and annotated bibliography) to the National Contest. One copy will go to the judges, and the other will be a backup.

To submit your project, please follow these steps:

- Go to the National Contest registration website and log in to your NHD student profile.
- Under **Important Links**, click **View & Edit Profile**.
- Select the **Entry** tab.
- Upload your PDF file (title page, process paper, paper, and annotated bibliography) into the **Entry Paper** field. If you already have a file uploaded to your profile, you must delete and replace it with your updated file.
  - Need help creating a single PDF? To combine your required paperwork (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) into **a single PDF file**, you can use free apps to combine multiple documents into one PDF, such as [Small PDF](#) and [I Love PDF](#). **The final PDF document order must be: title page, process paper, paper, and annotated bibliography.**
- Click **Save**. That's it!

We will test all PDFs and contact you if there are problems with the files.

### zFairs Registration System View

Entry Info

Entry Id	11001
Project Key	bac1368f-1d14-4fb6-ae6e-795b052b2660
Title*	Sample Project <span>14</span>
Category*	Paper
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please confirm that your title and category are correct. <i>In the Description box below, briefly summarize the historical argument and content of your project.</i>
Description*	This is the description of my project.
Judging Time Preference*	Late

**Entry's Paper** (Upload One PDF with Title Page, Process Paper, Paper, Annotated Bibliography)

### Bringing Your Paper to the NHD Contest

A virtual paper and website showcase will be accessible during the contest week.



## 2026 National Contest Performance Submission Instructions

You must submit your Written Materials (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) by the National Contest registration deadline of **Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Judges will review the Written Materials before the National Contest.

You **must bring two printed copies** of your Written Materials to the National Contest. If you make changes to your Written Materials between the registration deadline and the National Contest, you **must highlight the changes (in yellow)** in the two copies you bring to the contest. If your project advances to the final round, you will not need to provide additional copies. The final-round judges will receive a copy from the first-round judging team.

During registration, you must upload an MP4 file of your performance project. This does not need to be a finalized version of the performance; it is just a file in your account as a backup that can be played for judges if needed. This link is also necessary if you submit your performance for a showcase during registration. This video should include you/your group introducing yourself, your title, and your performance. You do not need to include the setup of your performance in the video.

Here are some helpful upload specs for your documentary. The file size upload limit is 1 GB. **Resolution:** Set to **720p** (1280x720) for the video resolution, **Frame Rate:** Set to **30 fps** (Frames per second), **Video Codec:** Set the video codec to **H.264 (x264)**.

### Adding Paperwork and Performance Link During Registration

To submit your required Written Materials and performance recording, please follow these steps:

- Go to the National Contest registration website and log in to your NHD student profile.
- Under **Important Links**, click **View & Edit Profile**.
- Select the **Entry** tab.
- Upload your PDF file (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) into the **Written Materials** field. If you already have a file uploaded to your profile, you can delete and replace it with your updated file.
  - Need help creating a single PDF? To combine your required paperwork (title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography) into **a single PDF file**, you can use free apps to combine multiple documents into one PDF, such as [Small PDF](#) and [I Love PDF](#). **The final PDF document order must be: title page, process paper, and annotated bibliography.**
- Upload your MP4 file in the **Performance Upload** field.
- Click **Save**. That's it!

We will test all links and PDFs and contact you if there are problems with the files.

### zFairs Registration System View

The screenshot shows a registration form with the following elements:

- Will this be a Team Project:** A checkbox that is currently unchecked.
- Description\*:** A text input field containing the text "This is my thesis statement:".
- Judging Time Preference\*:** A dropdown menu currently set to "Any".
- Written Materials (Upload One PDF with Title Page, Process Paper, Annotated Bibliography) You can upload this now or log back in before the registration deadline to upload.** A section with an "Add File" button.
- Performance Upload:** A section with an "Add File" button and a "Save" button.

A red rectangular box highlights the "Written Materials" and "Performance Upload" sections.



### **Bringing Your Performance Props to the NHD National Contest**

If you have props for your performance, they must be stored in either your dorm/hotel room or the Prince George's Room in the Stamp Student Union. You must supply all equipment and props used in a performance, including extension cords. You may use any chairs/desks in the judging room as part of your performance, if applicable.

When it is time for judging, bring your props to the judging room and then remove them following your judging time for safekeeping, as the judging rooms will be open after judging is completed. You are not permitted to store props and equipment in the various competition buildings — they must be kept in the Prince George's Room in Stamp Student Union or your dorm/hotel room.



### 2026 National Contest Website Submission Instructions

You must submit your website by the National Contest registration deadline of **Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Changes cannot be made to the project or the paperwork (process paper, annotated bibliography) after the registration deadline, as the judges will begin reviewing the materials.

To submit your website, please follow these steps:

- Go to the National Contest registration website and log in to your NHD student profile.
- Under **Important Links**, click **View & Edit Profile**.
- Select the **Entry** tab.
- Next to the **NHDWebCentral Site Key**, add your 8-digit NHDWebCentral site key.
  - **Please note:** Your process paper and annotated bibliography do not need to be submitted separately. Both documents must be integrated into your website.
- Click **Save**. That's it!

We will test all site keys and contact you for any issues.

### zFairs Registration System View

#### Entry Info

Entry Id	11001
Project Key	bac1368f-1d14-4fb6-ae6e-795b052b2660
Title*	Sample Project
Category*	Group Website
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will this be a Team Project
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please confirm that your title and category are correct. <i>In the Description box below, briefly summarize the historical argument and content of your project.</i>
Description*	This is the description of my project.
Judging Time Preference*	Late
NHDWebCentral Site Key:	33822330
	<input type="button" value="Save"/>

### Bringing Your Website to the NHD Contest

The following equipment will be provided in the website judging rooms:

- Desktop PC computer with USB port, internet connection, HDMI, and VGA cables
- Projector/projection screen

A virtual paper and website showcase will be accessible during the contest week.