

Showcasing National History Day on College Applications and Resumes



Why should I include National History Day on my college application/resume?

Competing in National History Day is a huge accomplishment, and as such, it would be a great addition to any college application and/or resume. Students who participate in National History Day gain collaboration and research skills, while becoming better writers and critical thinkers. Program participants have even shown higher performances on standardized tests in *every* subject!



NHD gives students an opportunity to network and make connections within their community, as well as building relationships with students from across the nation! These experiences and relationships can help open doors to scholarship opportunities, letters of recommendation and acceptance into your dream college.

Being involved in National History Day allows students to stand out from their peers through

achievement and dedication. Below is an example of how Bethany Henry, a former NHD participant and intern, used her experience from National History Day to pursue her goals and succeed in her academic career.



For her NHD project, Bethany researched, developed and presented historical performances on Native American culture, which she performed for over 15 organizations, clubs and institutions all over the nation. By including the skills she learned through National History Day on her college

applications, Bethany was accepted to the University of Missouri and ultimately received a scholarship to complete her PhD at the University of Arkansas in 2014.

What skills did I gain through National History Day?

Showcasing the tangible skills you've gained from extracurricular activities will set your application apart.

Think about the parts of your project that were the most difficult for you. Was it writing? Researching? Learning to navigate editing software? You probably got much better at them while completing your project.

Regardless of the category, students who participate in National History Day sharpen these skills:

- Critical Thinking
- Research

- Creativity
- Writing and Editing
- Communication
- Collaboration
- And so many more!

This list is endless and probably different for each individual. Think about your personal project and the challenges you had to overcome. Each project is unique, and the experience you gained is as well!



Top Tips for Preparing Your College Applications

1. *Always know your deadlines!*

Being late never makes a good first impression. By getting your application in early, you give admissions officers a chance to look over your application before the rush of applications that come in at the last possible minute.

2. *Work on your application for a few minutes every day.*

This goes hand in hand with the first tip. College applications are definitely not something you should wait until the night before to get started on. Working on your application for a few minutes every day will make the editing process so much easier. It also allows you gain a fresh perspective on your application every time you sit down to work on it.

3. *Visit the campus.*

Visiting the campus shows admissions officers that **you're truly interested in the school. Besides, if you're going to** be spending the next few years there, you might as well make sure you like it! If **you're applying to several schools that are long-distance, visiting all of them can add up. While it's** always best to visit the campus in person, ask the admissions office if they have a virtual tour available on their website. Many schools do!

4. *Ask both friends and strangers for critiques.*

If you're having trouble describing yourself or what makes you unique, ask a friend or family member! **It's** often helpful to get an outside perspective on how people see your qualities compared with how **you see them. While it's helpful to ask people who know you, it's also helpful to ask someone who doesn't! Ask a teacher or a friend of your parents who doesn't know you very well to critique your** essay. Ask them what they learned about you from your essay and what stood out to them.

5. *PROOFREAD!*

You can never proofread enough! Have a teacher or parent proofread as well, just for good measure.

6. *Be honest and be proud of who you are.*

The **last and most important tip! Don't write your** essay based on what you think admissions officers **want to read. Write about something you're** passionate about and it will show! Be honest about who you are and the right school will **see that you're** the perfect fit.