

Bulletin

Region VIII

Social Studies Fair

University Center

Southeastern Louisiana University

Director: Dr. Lauren Doughty

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Getting Ready for the Fair:

THE BASICS OF A SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR PROJECT

The development of every social studies fair project should consider these things:

- A. A topic
- B. Display Board
- C. A research paper
- D. An oral presentation

A. Selecting a topic:

In selecting and identifying a topic for use in a social studies fair project several things should be kept in mind. It is essential that the student topic establish some relationship to man. The topic and project should be distinctly related to the social sciences and history. Beware of the overlap that can occur with a topic. For example, a student might select a topic related to Native Americans. Depending on the topic treatment, the project could apply to any number of disciplines. The project could examine the history of Native Americans (history), how they earned their living (economics), their customs (anthropology), how they lived together (sociology), government policy toward Native Americans (political science), or where they lived (geography). It is important that the student make it very clear that the topic and its treatment are distinctly related to the discipline chosen for the competition. Students must avoid the use of topics that are clearly related to pure science areas. For example, the study of geology should not be confused with geography and dinosaurs should not be included in a project unless there is a clear relationship to humans. The best way for a student to select a topic is to identify something about which they are curious; students always have questions about many different topics, subjects, events, people, and places. The student should identify one of these or anything else that may pique their curiosity, then contemplate the subject matter.

In considering a topic, remember:

1. Value: The topic should be enlightening on some significant aspect of human experience.
2. Originality: If a project has been the subject of a previous investigation, the proposed new study should either furnish substantial new evidence or provide a significant new interpretation.
3. Practicality: Sources must be available which one may use conveniently and without fear of censorship. The scope of the subject should be neither too limited nor too broad.
4. Unity: Every project must have a unifying theme, or be directed to a certain question or thesis; thus there is a point of departure, the development of subject, and specific conclusions.

There are unlimited topics for study, especially at the local level. These include studies of business, churches, governments, biographies, community changes, and other topics. It must be understood, however, that any one phase may involve one or all of the social studies. For example, the evolution of business represents one phase of economics;

its impact on people involves sociology and its influence on people involves psychology. Even though the project encompasses many disciplines, it must be entered for competition in the discipline of major emphasis.

In selecting a topic, the student should exercise care regarding the scope of the project. The project topic should not be so broad that it cannot be given good in-depth treatment. Conversely, the student's topic should not be too specific. For example, a topic such as World War II may be too broad and too difficult to complete everything about that historical event in one comprehensive project. On the other hand, a topic such as Louisiana in World War II may be too narrow because information on Louisiana's involvement in the war would be too limited. A specific topic would, perhaps, be more suitable; some examples are the War in the Pacific, the bombing of Pear Harbor, the Allied invasion of Europe, the development of the atomic bomb, or the Battle of the Bulge. It is possible that a student may be able to successfully create a project on World War II or Louisiana in World War II. The key is how the student treats the topic. A student might be able to create a project with a unique perspective on both these topics. However, great care should be given to find the middle ground between topics that are too broad and topics that are too narrow.

Once a reasonable topic is selected, a title should be given to the project. The title should be short and descriptive and create a picture of the project. It should pique the judges' curiosity and spark an interest in learning more about the project associated with the title. It may be that the best title for the project might emerge from the research, and the title could be assigned after the research is completed.

Once the topic and/or the title are selected, the student should begin research. Information can be gathered from many sources, especially school, public, or college/university libraries. Sources of information concerning one project may require only questionnaires to a sample of people and the tabulation of results. Another project may be based on the study of manuscripts and/or newspapers and still another project may be based on government publications or those of some specialized agency. The following are fruitful sources of information for researchers in the social science:

- A. Newspapers, magazines, published letters, memos.
- B. Unpublished manuscripts (wills, letters, deeds, church minutes, diaries)
- C. Government publications (international, national, state, local)
- D. Publications by private agencies, physical remains (buildings, battle areas, artifacts)
- E. Oral interviews, polls and questionnaires, photographs, sound recordings, films

As a rule, a good researcher uses a variety of three, and the use of one leads to the use of another.

Students should consult general reference materials first if they have no background information at all or if the topic is not current. Some suggested reference sources of this type are:

- A. Encyclopedias
- B. Atlas and gazetteers
- C. Almanacs
- D. Yearbooks and handbooks
- E. Biographical dictionaries

If the information is very current, information can be found through the use of:

- A. Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature
- B. Vertical files
- C. Newspapers or news magazines
- D. Current biography

One of the most powerful tools for library research, other than the librarian, is the card catalog. This invaluable tool will allow the student to locate information according to the title of a book, subject, or author. Another excellent, often overlooked, source is community people who can offer oral information about a wide range of topics and events. Students with appropriate topics will find these people a fine source of information, which can enrich their projects with unique and often unusual information unavailable from other sources. Other information can be secured from community people in the form of questionnaires or surveys. Social studies and other teachers with responsibilities for developing skills should not miss the opportunity to provide appropriate instruction in these areas to students working on fair projects: reading, writing, research and reference, study, thinking, and other skills. Instruction should be coordinated with the development of social studies projects.

B. Display Board

The display is the physical representation of your theme or topic. It must fit within a space of 36 inches wide and 30 inches deep. It cannot weigh over 100 pounds or be taller than 100 inches. Please see State Fair Information: A Guide to Social Studies Fair Projects for a picture of the Display Board. The project may assume one of several forms:

A. Visual projects: This type project relies primarily on visual elements to convey to the judges the meaning of the project.

B. Audio projects: This type project relies primarily on audio elements to convey to the judges the meaning of the project.

C. Audio-visual projects: This type project relies primarily on both audio and visual elements to convey to the judges the meaning of the project.

In all the forms, the student should still have a research paper and should be prepared to give an oral presentation to the judges.

Other points to remember about the physical appearance of the project are:

A. The title of the project must be on display.

B. Use one color printing to avoid confusion.

C. The materials used for the project vary, but it should be safe, strong, lightweight, and self-supporting.

D. Use attractive materials and lettering.

E. Words should be seen easily from a distance of three to five feet.

F. Choose colors which have good value contrast. Value contrast is the amount of darkness or lightness in a color. For example, navy blue letters on a yellow background are easier to read than orange letters on a yellow background.

Suggested colors are:

1. White on black 5. Orange on purple

2. Black on yellow 6. White on purple

3. Black on orange 7. Navy blue on yellow

4. Yellow on green 8. Purple on yellow

G. Avoid the use of purchased items and little plastic figures. Be creative; make your own figures from available materials or handmade items. Use original materials or pictures where possible, and avoid the use or over use of photocopies.

H. Do not use flammable, toxic, or other dangerous materials or objects.

Various project media can be included in the project. These include:

A. Charts

B. Documentaries

C. Murals

D. Maps

E. Statistical analysis

F. Diagrams

G. Photographs

H. Graphs

I. Mock-up surveys

C. RESEARCH PAPER

A well-developed research paper must accompany each social studies fair project. The research paper must include these items:

1. Title Page

Good titles usually are short, descriptive, and create pictures in the minds of the audience. A title should hint at the subject without telling the whole story like a riddle that sparks interest because it makes the listener think.

2. Table of Contents

All major elements in the paper should be listed with the appropriate page number.

3. Abstract

It is a brief (approximately 250 words) summary of the content, purpose, and reference sources used in the paper. The purpose of the report should be based on the questions you asked or the problem you identified. The following is an example of an abstract.

This project is about the internment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II. The project will describe the historical background for popular sentiment against Japanese-Americans living on the west coast of the United States at the beginning of World War II. The project will show that the internment of these people was not an act of increase national security, but was apart of a greater effort to calm an alarmed American public frightened by the sudden attack on Pearl Harbor. Further, the project will show that the internment of these American citizens was inconsistent with constitutional principles.

Information for this project was secured from various sources, including books, periodicals, and government documents. Also included with the project will be taped interviews with legal experts and Japanese-Americans.

This project intends to demonstrate that even in times of national emergency, citizens must be careful to ensure constitutional rights.

4. Body of Paper

This part of the paper tells the story of the project. It should include information about the basic purpose of the report, relevant questions asked, and information gathered for the research. The length of the paper may vary depending on the type of project, but it should be of adequate length to appropriately cover the topic.

5. Conclusion

The general ideas the student discovered or learned from doing the project should be concisely described in this section.

6. Footnotes/Endnotes

Any information (including oral interview information) directly cited in the report or paraphrased should be properly indicated in the body of the research paper.

Footnotes/endnotes are required in Division III research papers.

7. Bibliography

All books, articles, and other sources, included interviews, which are used in the report, must be listed. Any of the standard bibliographic or reference style such as the American Psychological Association, Turabian, University of Chicago, Modern Language Association, etc. may be used. Each part of the research paper must be clearly labeled at the top of the appropriate page.

D. ORAL PRESENTATION

Each project must have one (1) student give an oral presentation (3minutes) to judges on their project. The student should also be prepared to respond to any questions that might be asked about the project. The oral presentation should be concise, direct, and in logical order; responses to questions should also be concise and direct. These are some things that will be beneficial in the oral presentation when responding to questions:

- A. Keep eye contact with judges.
- B. Stand on both feet.
- C. Dress neatly.
- D. Stay within the time limit.
- E. Integrate the display into the presentation.
- F. Use conversational speech.
- G. Relax, speak slowly and clearly.

There are several things that should be avoided during the oral presentation. These include:

- A. Chewing gum or tobacco.
- B. Moving nervously.
- C. Standing in front of or obscuring the project.
- D. Using note cards or notes.
- E. Putting hands in pockets.
- F. Wearing heavy jewelry or distracting clothing.

Parent Involvement: Appropriate parent and teacher involvement in a social studies project is essential. Both parents and teachers should remember that the most important ingredients in any project are the amount of work the student accomplishes, how much knowledge he or she acquires, and how much initiative is displayed. Many abilities are developed: researching, organizing, outlining, measuring, calculating, reporting, and presenting. These involve the reading, writing, arithmetic, and social skills that are a part of successful daily living.

There are some points that both teachers and parents should keep in mind:

- A. Parents and teachers should support and encourage involvement in the social studies program.
- B. The emphasis should be on student achievement and learning and not strictly on “winning.”
- C. It is appropriate for parents and teachers to work with students to insure that projects are safe.
- D. Some forms of parental or teacher involvement which are welcomed include:
 1. Suggesting project ideas.
 2. Suggesting reference sources.
 3. Transportation to libraries, businesses, museums, and other places that are sources of project information.
 4. Being a good listener for practice oral presentations.
 5. Offering general constructive criticisms.
 6. Giving encouragement to students.

7. Monitoring construction of the project to insure safety.

Note: More than one student in a group project can participate in the oral presentation in the regional fair, however; state fair only allows one student to do the oral presentation.

ORGANIZATION OF THE REGION VIII SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR

LOCAL FAIRS: Each school in Region VIII, which includes the parishes of Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington, is encouraged to hold a local Social Studies Fair to select winners who will enter the Region VIII Social Studies Fair. In schools where a local fair is not held, a committee of teachers may make selection of entrants for the Region VIII Social Studies Fair.

Limitations and Classification: Please note the limits on entries to the Region VIII Social Studies Fair given under "Organization." Please be sure that all projects are placed in the proper Discipline as described. Once submitted into a Discipline such as Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Louisiana History, Political Science, or Sociology, the student or students project will be judged in that category. No exceptions. Please make sure you list the correct Discipline on the entry form. No changes will be made on the day of the fair. Students will compete in the Discipline they are registered in.

Judges: Please note that the Region VIII Social Studies Fair is unable to provide judges for local fairs.

Divisions: The Region VIII Social Studies Fair is divided into three Divisions. Each school may submit a maximum of fifteen (15) projects for each appropriate Division. Schools with a combination of Division I and Division II grades or Division II and Division III grades may submit a total of thirty (30) projects, but no more than fifteen (15) for each Division. Try to submit student projects in a variety of Disciplines.

Division I includes grades 4-5.

Division II includes grades 6-8.

Division III includes grades 9-12.

Disciplines: Each Division is divided into seven (7) Disciplines. Each school may submit no more than five (5) projects per Division in any one of the seven (7) Disciplines. For example, a school may submit no more than five projects in History for Division I.

Anthropology: Projects concerning how culture has developed by people living and thinking together. Examples are Ancient civilizations, Native Americans, customs, festivals, types of shelter and food, religion, etc.

Economics: Projects concerning the utilization of the natural environment to produce the goods and services needed by man. Examples are money, manufacturing, trade,

transportation of goods, services, communication, inflation, stock exchange, Common Market, government budgets, etc.

Geography: Projects concerning the relationship between man and his natural environment. Examples include ecology, foreign countries, lands and peoples, maps, flooding, rivers, lakes, cities, conservation, etc.

History: Projects concerning the written story of man and the development of civilizations. Examples include historical events and trends, wars, diplomacy, politics, religious institutions, biographies, etc.

Louisiana History: Any projects you would place in the History category but that are specific to Louisiana.

Political Science: Projects concerning principles, organization, and methods of government. Examples include government agencies, constitutions, courts, international agencies, FBI, CIA, etc.

Sociology: Projects concerning people living in groups. Examples include the family, crime, mental health, lifestyles, media, drug abuse, etc.

Important Note! Please note that local schools bear complete responsibility for seeing that all projects are classified in the proper Discipline. Under no circumstances will officials of the Region VIII Social Studies Fair change a project from one Discipline to another. Your care and cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Individual and Group Projects: Projects may be either of the following.

Individual: Projects that one student prepares and presents.

Group: Projects that two or more students prepare and present. Group projects must have a single designated spokesman. All students in the Group project may help present their project to the judges at the Regional Fair, but NOTE the State Fair only allows one designated spokesman to present their project to the judges.

Out of the fifteen (15) projects submitted for each Division, a school may submit any combination of Individual and Group projects, though schools are urged to seek a balance between the two. Again try and seek a balance with the Disciplines as well.

The different disciplines and types for each Division (I, II, and III) are as follows:

Anthropology Individual and Group Projects
 Economics Individual and Group Projects
 Geography Individual and Group Projects
 History Individual and Group Projects
 Louisiana History Individual and Group Projects

Political Science Individual and Group Projects
Sociology Individual and Group Projects

NOTE: Any concerns must go through your teachers to be presented to the Regional fair director.

RULES

Checklist and rules for the Region VIII Social Studies Fair:

_____1. Once submitted into a Discipline such as Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Louisiana History, Political Science, or Sociology, the student or students project will be judged in that category. No exceptions. Please make sure you list the correct Discipline on the entry form. No changes will be made on the day of the fair. Students will compete in the Discipline they are registered in.

_____2. The exhibitor will be allowed a maximum of five (5) minutes to explain, defend, and answer questions on the project. It is suggested that student presentations not exceed three (3) minutes in order to allow time for Judges' questions. Please note that the oral presentation makes a great initial impression on the Judges.

_____3. Projects are limited to a table space of 30 inches deep (front-to-back) and 36 inches wide (side-to-side). All elements of the project must fit within the space assigned at the fair and not encroach on adjacent space. No part of the project may be under the display table. No project may exceed 100 pounds in weight and 100 inches in height. Projects must be self-explanatory, stand by themselves, and have back and/or sideboards.

_____4. The State Social Studies Fair and many local fairs do require that all projects be accompanied by a paper with a properly written title page, table of contents, abstract, body of paper, conclusions, footnotes (Division III only), and bibliography. Participants in the Region VIII Social Studies Fair are also expected to include such a paper.

_____5. Cassette players, light bulbs, batteries, or any other equipment required for a project must be furnished by the entrant. All projects requiring electricity should be indicated on the Official Entry Form and accompanied by an extension cord. Projects using computers must have electrical surge protection devices. All such equipment must fit within the space allocated for the project. The Region VIII Social Studies Fair is not responsible for any equipment, valuables, or other items left on display, especially audio-visual or computer equipment.

_____6. The entrant's name, school, hometown, or other identifying information is not visible anywhere on the project or research paper. Entrants are requested not to wear school uniforms or other identifying clothing.

_____7. No live animals, embryos, fetuses, or original archaeological items are exhibited on the project.

_____8. For the Regional Fair, Group projects may have all of the students help orally present their project, HOWEVER, the State Fair specifies that Group projects must have

a single designated spokesman (only one student can present). No student will be allowed to enter or defend more than one project, whether Individual or Group.

_____9. Parents and teachers will not be allowed in the project area during the judging periods and during the distribution of awards. No communication between students and parents or teachers will be allowed during the actual judging. This will be strictly enforced. Teachers are invited to take advantage of the Hospitality Room in the University Center 203B Upper Level at this time. No children are allowed in the hospitality room. Free coffee and doughnuts will be available. Public viewing of projects will be announced on the day of the fair.

_____10. Students must remain with their projects throughout the judging periods from 8:30 to 11:30 (or when dismissed for lunch). The Judges will view all projects at least once between 8:30 and 11:30. It may be necessary for the Judges to view some projects more than once when determining winners. If you have not been judged at all by 11:30, notify someone at one of the Information Tables immediately. Please note that all students must return to their projects following the Lunch Break. There will be a 1st-4th place awards ceremony in the University Center at 12:30p.m.

_____11. Cameras and video cameras will not be allowed in the judging area during the judging period from 8:30 to 11:30. This will be strictly enforced.

_____12. Radios, tape players, and televisions will not be allowed in the judging area unless such equipment is specifically related to a project. Recordings, which are related to a project, should be played at low volume. Judges or the Director of the Fair will make the decision as to what constitutes “low volume”. This will be strictly enforced.

_____13. Students may bring game boys, iPods or books.

_____14. Decisions of Judges are final. The Judges for the Region VIII Social Studies are experts in the Disciplines to which they are assigned. Interference with judging or harassment of judges and other Fair personnel may lead to disqualification.

_____15. The Judges’ Room is off limits to everyone except the Judges and other Fair personnel. Inquiries should be directed to the Information Table.

_____16. Research paper is **not** attached to the backboard.

_____17. Title page is included (not labeled as such (in other words don’t put “Title Page” at the top)

_____18. Table of Contents is included (labeled at the top of the page, separate page)

_____19. Abstract is included (labeled at the top of the page, separate page)

_____20. Body of Research is included (pages are not labeled, in other words don't put the words "Body of Research at the top of each page)

_____21. Conclusion is included (labeled at the top of the page, separate page)

_____22. Footnotes/Endnotes are included (labeled at the top of the page) (required for Division III projects, optional for Division I and Division II.)

_____23. Bibliography is included (labeled at the top of the page, separate page)

_____24. The research paper is typed (required for Division III, optional for Division I and Division II)

_____25. Minimum 100 ft. extension cord if needed for project.

_____26. This project, as is, has not, nor will be entered into any other type of fair (i.e. Science, Home Economics, and Industrial Arts) other than social studies fair.

_____27. If my project deals with archeology, I am aware of state regulations governing this topic.

_____28. Parents and/or school personnel are responsible for the supervision and safety of the entrant. The Regional Social Studies Fair personnel are not responsible for supervision.

_____29. Judges' evaluation forms for projects will not be made public following the conclusion of the state fair.

_____30. Any concerns must go through your teachers to be presented to the Regional fair director.

_____31. Failure by a student, parent, or teacher to adhere to all rules of the Region VIII Social Studies Fair may lead to disqualification. Should you require further explanation of the Region VIII Social Studies Fair rules or procedures, please write to:

Dr. Lauren Doughty, Director
Region VIII Social Studies Fair
10322 SLU Station
Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond, LA 70402

Or e-mail: lauren.doughty@selu.edu

TIPS ON WINNING

1. Originality is very often the most important feature separating winning projects from others. Certain topics--for example, flags of Louisiana, the Statue of Liberty--have been used so often that it is difficult to come up with anything new. Projects which show evidence of creativity and use of sources other than encyclopedias and school textbooks are much more likely to gain the favorable attention of the Judges.
2. A good oral presentation is vital to the success of a project. This should be about three (3) minutes long in order to allow time for Judges' questions. This presentation allows judges to see that it was the student who completed the project being presented, not a parent, teacher, or someone else. Make sure you know your topic thoroughly in order to answer any judge's questions.
3. While participants are not being judged, strictly speaking, on looks or manners, a neat appearance and a polished, dignified delivery is certain to make a favorable impression on the Judges.
4. Make sure your display board is creative. Don't just use photocopies. Use a variety of materials to make up your display board.

A NOTE ON JUDGING

Participants, parents, and teachers frequently express concern about the number of times that a project has been judged. In the past there have been complaints that some students have been "judged" once, while others have been "judged" several times. In fact a project may be examined only once by the judges, or it may be viewed several times by the Judges where there is difficulty in making decisions about winners. But the fact that judges look at some projects more times than others does not indicate any discrimination. It merely reflects the judges' need to obtain more information for some entries. Complaints should not be made in such cases. Complaints should be made at the Information Tables only if an entry has not been judged at all by the end of the judging period, that is, by 11:30am.

Entry Forms And Fees

Entry Forms and Fees. Please download your entry form or register online at <http://www.selu.edu/ssfair>.

Deadline: All entries and fees must be received by Friday, January 19th. Please adhere to this deadline. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Entry Fees: An Entry Fee of \$8.00 for each project must accompany the Official Entry Form. Entries will not be processed without this fee. Send a single collated check or money order payable to Region VIII Social Studies Fair. Do not send cash.

Please mail all entries and fees for your school in a single envelope.

Mail entries to:

Region VIII Social Studies Fair
10322 SLU Station
Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond, LA 70402

If using FedEx, DHL, UPS etc. mail to:

Region VIII Social Studies Fair
10322 SLU Station
Southeastern Louisiana University
c/o 2400 N. Oak Street
Hammond, LA 70402

Confirmation of Entry

Notification that students are officially entered in the Region VIII Social Studies Fair will be e-mailed to the contact e-mail address listed on your entry form.

Substitutions. No substitutions will be allowed for projects once they have been entered.

Students with Disabilities: Special arrangements will be made for students with disabilities if at all possible. However, a letter specifying the student's needs must accompany the student's entry form. **No requests will be considered which arrive after the deadline for entries.**

Fair Day Schedule

Region VIII Social Studies Fair.

7:30 **Doors open** to the University Center For setting up projects. Click here for a layout of projects. Coffee, juice, donuts, muffins, etc. are provided only for teachers Room TBA.

8:30 **Judging of projects.** All students must remain with their projects until 11:30. No parents or teachers will be allowed in the project area at this time. Failure to observe these rules may lead to disqualification. Please do not bring food or drinks into the University Center. Please, no running in the University Center. (No sitting or climbing on or under the tables.) Chairs are not allowed unless there is a medical condition. We need to keep the aisles clear for judging. Students may bring an ipod or game system, but it is their responsibility to keep up with them. No radios please. The Regional Social Studies Fair is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

11:30 **Lunch break.** No food or drinks allowed in the University Center.

12:30 **Awards Ceremony.** Pictures of the winners be taken either during or immediately after the ceremony.

3:00 **University Center will close.** All projects must be removed from the center by this time.

To be announced Deadline for submitting Official State Fair Entry Forms and Entry Fee for each project for the **2018 State Social Studies Fair**. Forms will be handed out with the first and second place ribbons, and are to be returned to the Regional Director (Dr. Lauren Doughty).

To be announced Louisiana State Social Studies Fair

Awards

Plaques. Plaques will be presented for 1st place Winners, both Individual and Group, for each Division.

Ribbons. Ribbons will be presented for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Place, both Individual and Group, for each Discipline. Honorable Mention ribbons will be presented for all other projects.

Certificates. Certificates of Appreciation from the Region VIII Social Studies Fair will be presented to all participants.

Who is Eligible for State?

Eligibility. All 1st and 2nd Place Winners at the Region VIII Social Studies Fair will be eligible to participate in the State Social Studies Fair. State Fair information packets will be placed by their projects on the day of the fair.