



6.6. Poster

The poster is a scaled-down version of the exhibit category. This entry category is available only to participants in the Elementary Division (grades 4 and 5) as an introduction to NHD. This California-only category is not included at the National History Day contest. A poster provides the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the topic and theme, effectively use a combination of quotations and your own words to share the context, your historical argument and evidence that supports it, and the significance of your topic in history. You will also use images of all kinds (e.g., photos, maps, art images, etc.) and meaningful captions and labels to tell your story and guide the viewer through your display. Each poster includes a process paper and annotated bibliography.

F1.	<p>POSTER ELEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Your analysis must be clear and evident to the viewer in the poster itself. ▶ Your argument must be supported with, but not overwhelmed by, visual and textual evidence. ▶ Your poster must conform to all general and category rules. ▶ Your poster must not include takeaway items for judges or others.
F2.	<p>SIZE REQUIREMENTS & CONSTRUCTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Your poster will be no larger than 30" x 40" in size. ▶ It may be oriented either as portrait or landscape. ▶ Your project must be flat. It will contain no protruding elements. ▶ The display backing may be cardboard, mat board, poster board, foam board, or other flat material. ▶ You may attach flat paper items such as written materials, decorative paper, images, labels, etc. to your display backing. However, you may not raise these materials by mounting them on any material that causes them to protrude - they must lie flat on your backing. ▶ Do not use ribbon, buttons, textured paper or other materials that result in a raised or textured surface.

WORD LIMIT

- F3.**
- ▶ A 350-Word limit applies to all student-composed text that appears on, or as part of, a poster.
 - ▶ The following words **DO** count:
 - ▶ The text that you write, including titles, subtitles, captions, graphs, or timelines.
 - ▶ Words in the following **DO NOT** count:
 - ▶ Primary or secondary materials or quotes included on your poster.
 - ▶ Source credits

CREDITING SOURCES

- F4.**
- ▶ All quotes from written sources must be credited on the poster and fully cited in the bibliography.
 - ▶ All visual sources (e.g., photographs, paintings, charts, and graphs, etc.) must be credited on the display and fully cited in the bibliography.
 - ▶ Source credits on your poster do not count toward the word total.
 - ▶ See nhd.org/annotated-bibliography for more information and an example of source credit.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- F5.**
- ▶ Rule 19 (page 19), applies to posters, with the following modification:
Students in the poster category are only require to annotate five of their sources.

REQUIRED WRITTEN MATERIALS

- F6.**
- ▶ Provide your required written materials for judging
 - ▶ Bring additional copies to contests, as they may be needed.
 - ▶ Refer to your Contest Coordinator for submission instructions.

D-DAY: BREAKING THE NAZI'S FORTRESS EUROPE

"They're murdering us here. Let's move inland and get murdered!" -Colonel Charles D. Canham, 116th Infantry Regiment commander

ATLANTIC WALL:

Between 1942 and 1944 the Nazis build fortifications, armaments, and deploy soldiers facing the coast line of Europe that spanned from the Spanish border to Norway's Arctic creating "Fortress Europe."

FUHRER DIRECTIVE #1
"All signs point to an offensive against the Western Front of Europe no later than spring, and perhaps earlier. . . For that reason, I can no longer justify the further weakening of the West in favor of other theaters of war. I have therefore decided to strengthen the defenses in the West, particularly at places from which we shall launch our long-range war against England."

"Hitler made only one big mistake when he built his Atlantic Wall. He forgot to put a roof on it."
- a U.S. paratrooper saying

Breaking the physical barrier of the Atlantic Wall seemed impossible, but due to their bravery, intelligence, and overall sacrifice, the Allied Forces overcame the Nazis on D-Day, leading to the breaking of "Fortress Europe," the liberation of Concentration camps, the Fall of the Third Reich, and the eventual dividing up of Europe between the Capitalist West and the Communist Soviet Bloc.

General Eisenhower's Speech to Troops
"Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. . . I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!"
-Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D. Eisenhower

OPERATION OVERLORD:

The plan is to cross the English channel sending in paratroopers, gliders, and decoys to disrupt and confuse German forces. Then a massive landing of American Forces at Utah and Omaha Beaches and British, Canadian, and French Forces at Gold, Juno, and Sword Beaches. Then move forward to Caen and onward into France.

The Struggle for Omaha Beach

The 34,000 American forces at Omaha beach suffering the fiercest fighting and highest casualties, losses of 2,400 men. German soldiers were well fortified on the bluffs leaving the Americans out in the open of long sandy beaches and having to scale steep cliffs at Pointe du Hoc. The bravery and sacrifice are legendary and terrifying.

"When we got within a thousand yards of the beach, you could hear the machine-gun bullets hitting off the front ramp of the boat. The ramp went down, and we were in water over our heads. Some of the men drowned. Some got hit by the bullets. The boat next to ours blew up. Some of those men fought fire. We never saw them again."

"When we got to the beach, I said to one of my men, Cal Meyer, 'If there's a hell, this has got to be it.' And it was about a minute later that he got a bullet in his head to make a long story short, only seven of the 31 men on my boat made it to the beach." -Sergeant Ray Lambert, 1st Infantry

"There were so many bodies lying in the water they stopped bringing any more troops ashore because it was freaking people out to see all these guys dead. They had to bring bulldozers in to push the bodies into a trench so they couldn't be seen." -Sergeant John Trigon

"The concept of the Allies actually invading Germany seemed unthinkable at the time, it must be said."
-Holger Eckhardt, D-Day, Through German Eyes

LIBERATORS, Not CONQUERORS

The 101st Airborne that led the D-Day Assault
June 5th, 1944, liberates Dachau Concentration Camp April 29th, 1945.

"We are told the American soldier does not know what he's fighting for. Now, at least, he will know what he's fighting against."
-General Eisenhower after visiting a camp

"At the core, the American citizen soldiers killed the difference between right and wrong, and they didn't want to live in a world in which wrong prevailed. So they fought, and won, and we, all of us, living and yet to be born, must be forever and profoundly grateful."
-Stephen Ambrose Author of Bands of Brothers

"In this column I want to tell you what the opening of the second front entailed, so that you can know and appreciate and forever be forever grateful to those who died and also who did it for you." -General Dyer, June 12, 1944

May 10, 1940
Germany invades France, establishing Fortress Europe

June 6, 1944
D-Day: The Allies invade Normandy, opening the second front in Europe

August 17, 1944
The Allies liberate Paris

September 1944
The Allies liberate the Netherlands

June 6, 1944
"Operation Overlord" - The Allies invade Normandy

August 1944
The Allies liberate the Balkans

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