

Sample History Day Pacing Junior Division

As you think about pacing the History Day process throughout your school year, the most important consideration is your school's preregistration form due date (February 12, 2026). That is when we need to know which students you have permitted to advance to the Chicago Metro History Day contests. You should work backward from this date to allow time not only for your students to complete their projects, but also for you to select which projects will advance from your school to the CMHD regional contests.

The following pacing guides can be used to plan 16-week and 12-week options for teaching History Day. In both cases, the "weeks" on the plan run Monday-Friday (weekends are excluded. Election week is not counted as a full week as many students are not in school that Monday and Tuesday). Both paces are based on a project registration due date of February 13. Projects are due (to you, the teacher) sometime around January 30, and the following week is allotted for you to grade, judge, and select which projects will advance to the regional contests (see Project Allowances).

These plans are just guides and we encourage teachers to change them however best fits their students' needs and school schedules. For the 2025-2026 school year, we highly encourage teachers to build in a 1 to 2-week "buffer" in the schedule to allow for absences, delays, and any other unanticipated challenges throughout the year.

History Day Activity	16-Week Plan	12-Week Plan
Introduce Theme	Weeks of 9/22 and 9/29	Week of 10/13
Select Topics	Weeks of 10/6 and 10/13	Week of 10/20
Historical Research Question and Thesis	Weeks of 10/20 and 10/27	Weeks of 10/27 and 11/3 (election week)
Research and Analysis	Weeks of 11/3 (election week), 11/10, 11/17, (Thanksgiving), and 12/1	Weeks of 11/10, 11/17, (Thanksgiving), and 12/1
Argument and Student Voice	Weeks of 12/8 and 12/15 (followed by winter break)	Weeks of 12/8 and 12/15 (followed by winter break)
Building the Project	Weeks of 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, and 1/26	Weeks of 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, and 1/26
Final Projects Due to Teachers	Sometime around 1/30 or early the following week	Sometime around 1/30 or early the following week
School Contest/ Regionals Selections	Week of 2/2 (or 2/9 to 2/11)	Week of 2/2 (or 2/9 to 2/11)
School Preregistration Form Due to CMHD	2/12	2/12

Sample History Day Pacing Senior Division

As you think about pacing the History Day process throughout your school year, the most important consideration is your school's preregistration form due date (February 12, 2026). That is when we need to know which students you have permitted to advance to the Chicago Metro History Day contests. You should work backward from this date to allow time not only for your students to complete their projects, but also for you to select which projects will advance from your school to the CMHD regional contests.

The following pacing guides can be used to plan 14-week and 10-week options for teaching History Day. In both cases, the "weeks" run Monday-Friday (weekends are excluded. Election week is not counted as a full week as many students are not in school that Monday and Tuesday). Both paces are based on a school preregistration form due date of February 12, and a student registration due date of February 13. The student due date of January 30 gives you time to evaluate projects and make your school's selections for the regional contests, if applicable (see Project Allowances).

These plans are just guides and we encourage teachers to change them however best fits their students' needs and school schedules. For the 2025-2026 school year, we highly encourage teachers to build in a 1 to 2-week "buffer" in the schedule to allow for absences, delays, and other unanticipated challenges throughout the year.

History Day Activity	14-Week Plan	10-Week Plan
Introduce Theme	Week of 10/6	Week of 11/3 (election week) or 10/27
Select Topics (and narrow them!)	Weeks of 10/13 and 10/20	Week of 11/10
Historical Research Question and Thesis	Week of 10/27	Week of 11/17 (followed by Thanksgiving)
Research and Analysis	Weeks of 11/3 (election week), 11/10, 11/17, (Thanksgiving), and 12/1	Weeks of 12/1, 12/8, and 12/15 (followed by winter break)
Argument and Student Voice	Weeks of 12/8 and 12/15 (followed by winter break)	Week of 1/5
Building the Project	Weeks of 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, and 1/26	Weeks of 1/12, 1/19, and 1/26
Final Projects Due to Teachers	Sometime around 1/30 or early the following week	Sometime around 1/30 or early the following week
School Contest/Selections	Week of 2/2 (or 2/9 to 2/11)	Week of 2/2 (or 2/9 to 2/11)
School Preregistration Form Due to CMHD	2/12	2/12