

Sample History Fair Pacing

Senior Division



As you think about pacing the History Fair process throughout your school year, the most important consideration is your project registration due date (Feb. 8 for suburban schools, Feb 15 for schools). 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 CMHF regional contests.

The following pacing guides can be used to plan 14-week and 10-week options for teaching History Fair. In both cases, the “weeks” run Monday-Friday (weekends are excluded). Both paces are based on a project registration due date of February 8 (City Senior school registration is not due until February 15, so those schools have an extra week not shown here). The student due date of January 29 gives you ten days to evaluate projects and make your school’s selections for the regional contests, if applicable (see Project Allowances).

The 14-week plan has you introduce History Fair to your class immediately after Teacher Kickoff and requires students to select their topics by the following week. After two weeks developing their historical question and working thesis, students work through the beginning of winter break to spend about a month doing their main research. This plan has the two weeks of winter break “off,” allowing you to use it as a buffer/grading/catch-up time. Upon returning from break on January 4, students have a month to assemble their arguments and build their projects.

The 10-week plan has you introduce History Fair immediately before Thanksgiving Break; we recommend asking students to contemplate possible topics over Thanksgiving and spend the week when they return narrowing down their possibilities. After another week asking questions and developing their working theses, students will have four weeks to conduct the bulk of their research, which includes winter break and takes them through January 8! This gives them just three weeks to assemble their final argument and build their actual projects. This is an accelerated plan that will require significant student commitment during winter break.

History Fair Activity	14 week Two-quarter plan	10 week one-quarter plan
Introduce theme	10/21-10/23 (3 days)	11/23-11/27 (2 days)
Select topics	10/26-10/30 (1 week)	11/30-12/4 (1 week)
Historical question and thesis	11/2-11/13 (2 weeks)	12/7-12/11 (1 week)
Research and Analysis	11/16-12/18 (4 weeks) +2 weeks break	12/14-1/8 (4 weeks, includes break)
Argument and Student Voice	1/4-1/15 (2 weeks)	1/11-1/22 (2 weeks)
Building the Project	1/15 – 1/28 (2 weeks)	1/22-1/28 (1 week)
Final projects due	1/29	1/29
School Fair/selections	2/1-2/5 (1 week)	2/1-2/5 (1 week)
Registration due to CMHF	2/8	2/8