**Oklahoma National History Day**

**Suggested Timeline for Documentary Category Yearlong Course**

| August/September | Introduction to History Day  
|                  | • Read the rulebook  
|                  | • Discuss theme  
| **Building Historical Thinking and Research Skills**  
|                  | • How to conduct research  
|                  | • Primary and secondary documents  
|                  | • How to construct a bibliography  
| **Topic and Category Selection**  
|                  | • Work on finding and narrowing topics  
|                  | • Decide category and group or individual entry  
| **Research**  
|                  | • Begin secondary source research (books and journal articles) using library resources—look for background information on event/individual and time period  
| **October**  
| **Research**  
|                  | • Use secondary source bibliographies and citations to look for primary sources  
|                  | • Begin primary source research (newspapers, published memoirs or recollections)  
|                  | • Explore other avenues—call or email professionals, scholars, or witnesses to topic; conduct interviews; etc.  
| **Project Development**  
|                  | • Create preliminary storyboard  
|                  | • Begin gathering photos, images, and video clips for use  
|                  | • Begin building graphics  
|                  | • Create bibliography  
|                  | • Begin writing process paper  
| **Evaluate Progress**  
|                  | • By the end of the October: students have 2–5 secondary source books and 2–5 secondary source journal articles; and preliminary storyboard  
| **November**  
| **Research**  
|                  | • Continue research—look for other available primary sources (letters, diaries, photographs, government documents, census records, etc.)  
|                  | • Make notes of any quotes that might be used in the documentary  
| **Thesis Development**  
|                  | • How does this topic relate to the theme?  
|                  | • Why is this topic important or significant?  
|                  | • Use the answers to these questions to begin constructing thesis statement  
| **Project Development**  
|                  | • Finalize storyboard  
|                  | • Continue gathering photos, images, and video clips for use  

### November

**continued**
- Begin writing script
- Begin creating an effective soundtrack
- Finish building graphics
- Identify newspaper or magazine articles, government documents, letters, or other primary sources to be used as images in the documentary
- Keep bibliography up to date
- Continue writing process paper

**Evaluate Progress**
- By end of month: students have 3 primary source newspaper articles, 5 other primary sources, and 10 secondary sources (combination of books, journal articles, and other secondary sources); final storyboard; completed graphics; and preliminary thesis

**Revision**
- Use teacher feedback to improve project

### December

**Research**
- Continue research

**Project Development**
- Finish script and soundtrack
- Conduct necessary interviews
- Begin recording narration
- Begin editing
- Continue gathering photos, images, and video clips
- Strengthen and clarify thesis
- Keep bibliography up to date
- Continue writing process paper

**Evaluate Progress**
- By the end of December: students have at least 10 secondary sources and 10 primary sources; completed script; and completed soundtrack
- Thesis statement should be strong and clear

**Revision**
- Use teacher feedback to improve project

### January

**Project Development**
- Revise script
- Continue editing
- Finish recording narration
- Continue editing
- Keep bibliography up to date
- Finish process paper

**Evaluate Progress**
- Preliminary bibliography due: students have at least 12–15 secondary sources and 12–15 primary sources
- Thesis statement due
- Turn in graphics, storyboard, and script
| Month     | Revision                                                                 | Project Development                                                                 | Evaluate Progress                                                                 | School and District Competitions                                                   | Revision                                                                 | State Competition                                                                 | Revision                                                                 | National Competition                                                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January   | • Use teacher feedback to improve project                                 |                                                                                     |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |
|           |                                                                           | Project Development                                                                 | Final bibliographies and process papers due                                       | Final bibliographies and process papers due                                       |                                                                            | Final bibliographies and process papers due                                   |                                                                            |
|           |                                                                           | • Complete editing                                                                  | Finalize bibliography and add to credits                                          | Documentaries due                                                                   |                                                                            | Present project at regional contests (late February–April)                   |                                                                            |
|           |                                                                           | • Make backup copies of documentary using varied formats (i.e., flash drive/external  |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                            |
|           |                                                                           | hard drive, DVD, on a personal computer, etc.)                                        |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                            |
|           |                                                                           | • Present and seek feedback from peers and adults                                    |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                            |
| February  |                                                                           |                                                                                     |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                            |
| March/Apr| Revision                                                                   | • State qualifiers continue to research and improve project based on judges’ feedback |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                            | State History Day Contest at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City    |                                                                            |
| May       |                                                                           | from regional competitions                                                           |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                            |
| May/June  | Revision                                                                   | • National qualifiers revise projects for the national competition                    |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                            |
| June      |                                                                           |                                                                                     |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                            | National History Day Contest in College Park, Maryland                        |                                                                            |