



2019-20 History Essay/Video Contests for High School students

The Western Kentucky University History Department is pleased to announce its first annual history contest for regional high school students. There are three separate contests:



1) *Document Based Essay Contest*

Students will need to incorporate a variety of primary documents from a provided list and make a historical argument in its chronological context.



2) *History Detective Contest*

Students will be provided a primary source with all references to location and time period removed. They then will have to use historical reasoning to figure out where and when it is from and explain their reasoning.



3) *Reel History Video Contest*

Students will make a short video reporting on or acting out a famous historical event. The video should be mostly historically accurate but can also be fun and creative.

Full Application/Contest instructions for all contests are posted on the WKU History Department website at <https://www.wku.edu/history/essay-contests.php>

DEADLINE: All Applications and Essays or Videos are due Friday January 31.

Applicants' entries will be assessed by the department in terms of how much they reveal student understanding of the relevant history and the process of doing history. The History Department will invite finalists, their teachers, and families to campus for a reception and ceremony **Saturday, February 15** (which is also WKU Potter College of Arts and Letters preview day).

The winners will receive the following prizes: First Place: **\$150** cash; Second Place: **\$100** cash; Third Place: **\$50** cash. Students who enroll at WKU and become History minors and majors will also become eligible for substantial scholarship awards. The winners' schools will also receive **\$50** contributions to their PTA funds.

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