

Revising Your Project After Receiving Feedback

The great benefit of History Day is that you get to revise your work between contest levels! Whether you just finished a class or school-level competition or received judge feedback, it is sometimes hard to decide how to revise your project for the next level. Here are a few quick tips on where to focus your time:

1. **Fix Rule Violations** – Were you told you had a rule violation? These mistakes often do not take much time to fix and can have a big impact on your ranks at a contest.
2. **Check for Typos and Grammar Mistakes** - Get help from a teacher, family member, or friend to catch any typos or grammar mistakes. Avoiding these mistakes makes a great impression on judges.
3. **Look for Quick Format Fixes** - Did someone suggest a small format change? Perhaps to rearrange information, add headers, switch out an image, etc.? These are often quick to do as they do not involve much rewriting of your text or script.
4. **Take a Close Look at Your Thesis Statement** - One of the first things judges look for in your project is a strong thesis statement. Remember that these set out the historical argument that you are going to present in your project. They are often a great way to explain your theme connection clearly. **Need thesis help?** Email nchistoryday@ncdcr.gov.
5. **Consider Your Conclusion** - After your thesis statement, a strong conclusion stands out to judges. Make sure yours sums up your findings and answers the big “So What?” question of why your topic is important in history. Again, if you need advice on your conclusion, contact us for help.
6. **Strengthen Your Bibliography Sources** – Did someone suggest finding more or stronger sources? See if you can add one or two more that are strong. Remember, your bibliography shows the depth of your research and makes a great first impression!
7. **Edit Your Process Paper** - Consider adding a line or two to your process paper to explain how you handled revisions after receiving feedback. Judges like to see the revision process. Just be sure to stay under your word limit!
8. **Any Other Suggestions** - If you have time, consider any other suggestions you might have heard. Remember, just because you are given a suggestion does not mean you have to use it. Think about what is aligned with your goals and what you have time to do.

