

2026 – 2027 Social Studies Fair Scoresheet

Project Title:	Project Number:	Score:
Student Name 1:		
Student Name 2:	Discipline:	
Student Name 3:	Class:	
School:	Region:	
Directing Teacher:	System:	

1. Oral Interview – 8 minutes. See handbook for details and example questions. In answering questions and describing their research project, the student:		35 Points Possible
a) Clearly explains the rationale for research question / hypothesis selection (need, gap in research, personal passion or some other reason).		/ 5
b) Correctly uses discipline-specific vocabulary (language of the standards) when explaining or discussing content, research process, and overall value of project.		/ 5
c) Effectively supports conclusions with relevant evidence and explains how counterclaims or alternate explanations are not supported.		/ 5
d) Thoughtfully elaborates on how project could be further analyzed, refined, or extended.		/ 5
e) Confidently responds to questions with poise and appropriate projection.		/ 5
f) Thoughtfully responds to questions: ☐ Responses should reflect authentic answers not rehearsed responses. ☐ Responses should reflect knowledge of content and the research process used. ☐ For groups: responses should be shared, with each group member contributing evenly.		/ 10
1. Oral Interview Total		/ 35
2. Writing Components- Typed in Calibri 12 pt font with 1-inch margins, printed & placed in front of the display. (See handbook for more details & examples including alignment with GADOE social studies & literacy standards).		25 Points Possible
a) Abstract – Limited to 150 words, must include the following: ☐ Format/Conventions of language including correct grammar, punctuation, & spelling with formal style and objective tone. ☐ Brief introduction with your research question or hypothesis ☐ Methodology or research process ☐ Findings ☐ Conclusion		/ 5
b) Bibliography- All sources that you used should be listed here. ☐ From the first source to the last, a consistent style is followed in standard citation format (APA, MLA, Turabian as assigned by directing teacher); ☐ Variety of sources are used (primary, secondary, journals, books, newspapers, encyclopedias, videos, podcasts, art, etc.); avoids over-reliance on one source or type of source; and ☐ Sources are relevant to the project's research question / hypothesis		/ 5
c) Source Reflection Worksheets – Choose your top 3 MOST influential sources from your bibliography and complete the source reflection worksheet for each. Wikipedia should not be one of your most influential sources.		
☐ Selected Source #1- All questions are answered thoroughly using correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling within the word limit of 200 words.		/ 5
☐ Selected Source #2 - All questions are answered thoroughly using correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling within the word limit of 200 words.		/ 5
☐ Selected Source #3 - All questions are answered thoroughly using correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling within the word limit of 200 words.		/ 5
2. Writing Components Total		/ 25

3. Display - The visual presentation of your project. See handbook for details and examples.		40 Points Possible
The display headings are introduction, background information, methodology/research process, findings, and conclusion.		
a) Introduction with background information and research question / hypothesis ☐ precisely stated introduction ☐ relevant background information is presented establishing local, state, national or international significance of the research question / hypothesis ☐ research question / hypothesis is original or explores new aspect of a topic ☐ research question / hypothesis is appropriate to selected discipline category ☐ research question / hypothesis neither too limited nor too broad		/ 5
b) Methodology/Research Process ☐ steps in project development follow the norms and or conventions of the discipline ☐ social studies process skills are appropriately applied ☐ multiple authoritative print, digital, and other primary and secondary sources representing differing points of view are explored		/ 10
c) Research findings: Choose text, charts, graphs, photographs, videos, maps, other illustrations or evidence related to the research question / hypothesis. ☐ accurately label ALL of the images and describe how each of the images relates to your project. ☐ information is organized to build to a unified whole (informative/explanatory) ☐ information included is significant, credible, and relevant to the research question / hypothesis ☐ information included is fair and thorough; there is sufficient data on which to base conclusion ☐ analysis of primary and/or secondary sources is supported by reference to data or textual evidence ☐ claims, counterclaims or alternate explanations, reasons, evidence (argument); or information is logically sequenced. (if no counterclaims or alternate explanations are discussed, minus 2pts) ☐ clear evidence of critical thinking in the interpretation, analysis, and evaluation of information/data ☐ writing effectively communicates the selection, integration, and synthesis of the information ☐ avoids plagiarism or over-reliance on one source or type of source		/ 10
D) Conclusion: ☐ answers the research question / hypothesis addresses the problem ☐ follows from the research findings and supports the argument/ information provided ☐ articulates implications or significance of the findings ☐ addresses the limitations of the project; are there other explanations (counterclaims)? ☐ outlines how the project could be further analyzed, refined, or extended		/ 10
E) Effectiveness of Overall Display: The display and other media must be within size/time specifications (48" Wide X 30" Deep X 60" Height and a maximum of 3 minutes for any audiovisual materials-NOT the interview) and the research question / hypothesis and/or title must also be on tri-board. ☐ appropriate choice/correct use of media or format for data shown ☐ pleasing visual and/or auditory effect ☐ conscientious workmanship (accuracy, neatness, craftsmanship) ☐ creativity or originality (including the absence of commercially prepared models) in the construction, arrangement, and presentation of the materials ☐ correct use of conventions of language (grammar, spelling, punctuation)		/ 5
Grows:	3. Display Total	/ 40
Grows:	Total Score	/ 100
Please write this score on the front of this page – flip page over →		