Practice Interview Questions

Here are some questions the judges might ask you during the interview:

- Why did you choose this topic? What gave you the idea for this topic?

- How is this topic related to the theme of “Triumph and Tragedy in History”? How are the “triumph” and “tragedy” connected? Was the topic a “triumph” for some but a “tragedy” for others?

- What was the positive and/or negative impact of “triumph” or the “tragedy” at the time of the event? What was the legacy in later times?

- Did the “triumph” or the “tragedy” change the course of history? Why or why not?

- What is the most important point you are trying to convey about your topic?

- What was your most important source? Why?

- What was your favorite part of participating in Vermont History Day?

- What is the most important thing that you learned from completing this project?

- What did you find most difficult about doing the research for this project?

- How did your primary sources help you understand this topic?

- How did you come up with this script or design for your performance, website, documentary, or exhibit?

- Why did the people who are the subject of the entry get involved in whatever they were involved in?

- What were the biggest obstacles to your subjects’ success? How and why were they able to overcome these obstacles?

- What do you think were the most important factors that caused the event in question to occur? What context was necessary for the events to happen?

- What were the most important consequences of this event or person’s action?

- Why is this topic significant in history? Is the topic unique in history or similar to other events/movements?

- For Local History Topics- Do you think what was going on in _________________ (town/county/state) was unusual, or were the experiences of the people there typical of what was going on elsewhere? Why? How?