

History Day Mentor for Coaches

If you are considering starting a History Day program at your school, or are just looking for ways to improve your existing program, consider reaching out to a *History Day Mentor for Coaches*.

What does a History Day Mentor for Coaches do?

A *History Day Mentor for Coaches* is a teacher who has successfully participated in the History Day program, often for many years. They understand the ins and outs of the program and are willing to answer your coaching-related questions via email and/or telephone. A mentor can teach you about a specific issue or coach you on a particular skill. They may help facilitate your growth by sharing resources and networks or may challenge you to move beyond your comfort zone.

Your mentor may suggest ways and strategies to:

- solicit support and funds for your program from administrators, fellow teachers, and parents;
- develop your school/district program (in-class assignment vs. after-school program);
- implement Common Core in your History Day efforts;
- guide students in selecting categories and topics that match their skills and interests;
- find History Day resources online;
- understand the judging process and characteristics of winning History Day entries;
- prepare students and parents on what to expect the day of competition; and
- help you prepare to guide your students as they advance to the next round.

What does a History Day Mentor for Coaches not do?

- Mentors should NOT review, edit, or judge your students' projects.
- Questions about the timeline, logistics, and registration process for History Day events should be addressed to Craig Irish (cirish@scoe.net) or Dylan McDonald (dmcDonald@cityofsacramento.org).
- *Students and parents* who have questions related to the development of their projects are welcome to contact the appropriate category contacts from the **History Day Mentors for Students**, found on the "Getting Started" page. Please do NOT have your students contact the *History Day Mentor for Coaches* listed below.

Contacting a History Day Mentor for Coaches

Navigating the History Day program can be daunting, however with a mentor to assist you will soon be sailing along like a pro.

You may contact the appropriate mentors directly via the email address listed below. As a courtesy, type in the subject line of the email: **History Day Mentor**. In your introductory email include your name and contact information. Please keep your messages short and to the point, being mindful of your mentor's time, and allow five working days for a response.

Junior Division:

Melissa Lawson
MLawson@fcusd.org
Teacher, Folsom Middle School
10 years of experience with History Day

Senior Division:

Bonnie Roman
broman@stfrancishs.org
Teacher, St. Francis High School
20 years of experience with History Day