



Pelham Public Schools
ELA Writing Tri-State Review

April 18-20 2016

School: (please check one)

Elementary

High School

Middle School

District

Evidence Title: _____National History Day Research Project/Competition_____

Name of person submitting evidence: _____David and Acocella and Joanna Kelly_____

Grade Level: 8 **School:** Pelham Middle School **Course Name:** Social Studies 8

Please check one Indicator and one Stage of Implementation.

Indicator	Stage of Implementation		
	Approach	Implementation	Results
1. Performance Based Assessment		√	√
2. Student Metacognition in Learning Process			
3. Student Performance Data			
4. Curriculum & Instruction			
5. Professional Learning, Supervision and Evaluation			
6. Equitable Support for Student Needs			
7. Shared Vision & Environment for Change			
8. Parent and Community Support			
OTHER: Please Specify			

Brief Explanation of Evidence:

National History Day is nation-wide competition that makes history come alive for students by engaging them in the discovery of experiences/issues of the past and present. Students must pick a research topic that relates to an annual theme (ex: 2015 theme: "Exploration, Encounter and Exchange"). They then learn how to generate, broaden and/or narrow topics, develop theses, access resources available through our information center, evaluate sources, and extract pertinent information by making digital notecards. A project is then produced in one of five categories including documentaries, websites, live performances, papers and museum exhibits that students use to present the evidence supporting their theses. Finally, the students write an annotated bibliography and process paper in which they reflect on the steps they followed for their research from start to finish, how they used their sources in their presentation, and improvements they could make in how they approached it.

This project allows for ample student choice which helps engage them but also fits within our eighth grade curriculum as topics must be from U.S. history. It allows them to practice research skills and theses development on topics they find interesting, including current events. It moves them away from the typical Google or Wikipedia search and more towards reliable, 21st century modes of accessing and organizing information. Finally, the options they have in their mode of presentation allow for students to build on their strengths and creativity by using multiple intelligences of their choice to present their research.

Reviewed by: _____ OK for submission: _____