DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Nkosi Albert Luthuli Young Historians’ Award 2007*

The Department of Education, in partnership with South African History Online, is inviting all secondary schools to participate in the National Schools’ Oral History Competition, the *Nkosi Albert Luthuli Young Historians’ Award* that was inaugurated in 2005. This competition will form part of the Department’s contribution to the commemoration of the anniversaries of significant historical events in 2007.

It is also part of the Department’s ongoing initiative to encourage all learners to develop an understanding, not only of the broad history of South Africa, but also of the richness of the histories of their local communities. It is also an opportunity for young learners to gain experience in developing important research skills.

The competition is open to all learners from Grade 8 to Grade 11 and all history educators in secondary schools.

Learners and educators are advised to visit the South African History Online website for information on oral history research at [www.sahistory.org.za](http://www.sahistory.org.za).

**Competition for Learners**

Learners will be required to research and prepare a presentation or a documentary film or video on one of the following topics:

(i) *Our unsung heroes*: Investigate the life of a leader of your community, showing through oral history research how the individual made a difference to your community;

(ii) Young people who have contributed to our communities and society;
(iii) Steve Bantu Biko/ OR Tambo/ Nkosi Albert Luthuli/ Robert Sobukwe: Investigate the impact of the life and death of any one of these heroes of our people on members of your family and community;

(iv) Investigate an example of local struggle in your community against apartheid, in which the community came together to demonstrate their opposition to some apartheid government action that directly affected the local community. For example the Alexandra Bus Boycotts culminating in the famous bus boycott under the slogan *Azikhwelwa*. Alexandra residents walked to and from Alexandra to work along Louis Botha Avenue, Johannesburg, a trip that often was 15 to 30km. The boycott lasted for 180 days; or

(v) Investigate a family history that has its roots in slavery.

Please note the following:

1. The project must be based on oral history research.
2. Learners should be assisted in their choice of person/persons to be interviewed. Learners should be strongly guided to choose a person/persons from their local community.
3. Adjudication will be weighted in terms of the quality of research, rather than the mode of presentation.
4. The presentation may be in any of the official languages. Learners should be actively encouraged to use any official language.

CRITERIA

The learner will be expected to do TWO things:
a) Give an oral presentation or video documentary of his/her oral research to a panel of adjudicators (It is not intended to be a dramatic presentation nor poetry).

b) Prepare a portfolio in written form.

The portfolio must include the following:
Portfolios must show evidence of research. They should interview a member or members of the community and should be able to show evidence of the interviews, for example letters to interviewees, transcripts of interviews or tape recordings including the lists of questions posed to the person that they interviewed and their responses – either in written form or on a tape recording. **Interviews may be conducted and recorded in any of the official languages.**

Portfolios must also show evidence of reflection and should give attention to the following:

- Learners should make it clear why they chose the person, show a clear understanding of the historical context in which the individual worked and how the information from the interview relates to the historical context or how it helps us to understand events from a personal perspective.
- Learners should include a personal reflection on what they have learnt about the possibilities for individuals to bring about change in society, and what they have learnt personally from carrying out the oral history research and the value of oral history research in helping us to understand our history/past.
- Learners must acknowledge all sources used in their portfolios. Bibliographies should be included. Plagiarism will be heavily penalised.
Assessment criteria for oral history research projects (adapted from NCS FET HISTORY Subject Assessment Guidelines)

Scope of the oral history project
Oral history projects in the FET have a number of components:
- key question to focus the research;
- background research to set the interviews in context;
- the interviews and transcription of the interviews;
- a written discussion about how the information in the interviews relates to the period and an evaluation of the interviews as sources about the past.
- Self-reflection at the end: what has doing this project meant to me [the learner] in terms of personal growth and knowledge and understanding of the period.

(This could also focus on more direct questions, especially in Grade 10, such as: What was the most important thing you learned from the oral histories? Having done the project, what would you like to know more about?)

N.B. Core assessment Criteria for research section: use the criteria for each grade as outlined for the research assignment. (Criteria might be added to make the core criteria more appropriate for specific tasks.)

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<th>Formulate questions for the project</th>
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<td>Identify and access a variety of sources of information</td>
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Criteria for assessing an oral history project

| Criterion 1 | Interview questions |
• The questions were open-ended
• The questions were appropriate and elicited information relevant to the overall question
• There were sufficient questions

**Criterion 2**  
**Interviewee**  
• Person/s interviewed was/were appropriate  
• The biographical details of the interviewee/s was/were given

**Criterion 3**  
**Preparation and planning**  
• There is evidence of careful preparation for the interviews  
• There is evidence of project planning  
• All preparation and planning notes are included in the project

**Criterion 4**  
**Presentation of the information from the interviews**  
• The interviewee/s was/were placed into historical context.  
• The context for understanding the interview/s was given  
• The information from the interviews was placed in historical context  
• The information from the interviews was accurately transcribed (if a tape recorder was used)  
• The information from the interviews was analysed and organised coherently, showing different points of view if appropriate.  
• The presentation of the project to the class was clear and effective.

**Criterion 5**  
**Self reflection**  
• Comments show depth of thought about the process and the product.

**Competition for Educators**  
Educators from secondary schools entering the competition will be required to develop a work plan on how they planned and set up the oral history project in the classroom.

Each educator will be required to give a presentation of his/her portfolio to a panel of adjudicators and be prepared for a panel discussion on his/her portfolio.
Educators should include the following in a portfolio for the competition:

- How the oral history project was introduced in the classroom;
- What explanation was given to learners about choosing and approaching possible interviewees, preparing for and conducting interviews and using the interview as evidence to reach conclusions about the contribution of that individual;
- What interventions the educator made in assisting learners to complete the project.
- What the teacher felt the learners gained from doing an oral history investigation

**Adjudication**

Adjudication will take place at a provincial level in August 2007 and at a national level in September 2007 at a national event.

Panels of adjudicators comprising historians and heritage workers will be appointed for the provincial and national adjudications.

**The National Event**

**Ten learners** from secondary schools in all provinces will be selected as the *Nkosi Albert Luthuli Young Historians* to represent the province at a national event in September 2007. Learners will be expected to give an oral presentation of their research and have a hard copy of their research essay available for adjudicators.

**Three educators** from each province will be selected to the national event in September 2007. Educators will be expected to present their work plans to a panel of adjudicators.