



The New Jersey Amistad Commission's Afro Hispanic/Latino American History Day Contest 2025

The New Jersey Amistad Commission is introducing an event for students in grades **4-12**, to demonstrate their academic skills in Social Studies and History. This contest will highlight African descendants of Hispanic and Latino Heritage. This contest is designed specifically for students in **fourth through twelfth grade** and will be held on **October 18th, 2025, at the Pleasantville Public School District.**

The purpose of this contest is to develop students' historical thinking skills as they connect with the Afro Hispanic/ Latino American History. Additionally, this will serve to prepare New Jersey students for the National History Day Contest while engaging in the implementation of the New Jersey Amistad Legislation.

Students will conduct research and create projects that will highlight the contributions of Afro Hispanic/Latino to United States History. This contest will empower students to develop their skills in research, writing, public speaking and critical thinking skills and instill in them confidence and pride as they present their work to the larger New Jersey community. Additionally, the program will encourage educators to explore a new avenue to meet the mandate of the Amistad Legislation.

Students in grades **4-12** are eligible to participate.

There are three divisions: **Elementary** (grades 4-5), **Middle** (grades 6-8) and **High** (grades 9-12). Students can either work individually or in a collaborative group of up to four students.

Students will present their analysis in one of five creative formats:

 **Exhibit**
 **Documentary**
 **Paper**
 **Performance**
 **Website**

(The Elementary Division will only have Exhibit, Paper and Performance formats)

- Projects in grades **4-5** will require a process paper of a minimum of 150 words, maximum of 300, and should include a list of all sources, including interviews or other resources.
- Projects in grades **6-12** will require a process paper of a minimum of 300 words, maximum of 500, and should include a list of all sources, including interviews or other resources.





Students will present their work to trained volunteer judges, who will evaluate each project against the rubric and provide authentic, constructive feedback aimed at supporting student research and presentations skills.

Eligible Participants:

- New Jersey School Districts, Charter, Renaissance and Parochial/Private Schools
- The School District of Philadelphia is also eligible to compete in this event

Please see sample [rubric](https://nhd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Copy-of-NHD-Evaluation-Forms-1st-Round-2022-Exhibit.pdf) linked here: <https://nhd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Copy-of-NHD-Evaluation-Forms-1st-Round-2022-Exhibit.pdf>

Educators interested in participating, please email us the following information:

- Teacher contact information
- School District
- Grade level
- Name of student projects
- Names of student participants

Please send the information to: amistadspecialprojects@doe.nj.gov or if you have questions give us a call at (609) 376-9137 prior to **September 19th, 2025**.

Upon registration you will be provided with a link for payment.

Dr. Patrick Lamy

Executive Director
The Amistad Commission
State of New Jersey, Department of Education