



Tips About Creating Virtual Heritage Fair Videos:

So you want to create a video for the Virtual Heritage Fair? Not sure where to start or if your idea is a good one? Here are some tips and ideas to get you started.

Tips About Video Content:

1. **Any topic can make for a good video!** It is all in how you make the video, not about what your topic is. You might need to narrow down your topic, such as focusing on a couple key persons or events, in order to keep your video shorter than ten minutes.
2. **You do not need to be fancy!** The aim is to convey your presentation well to your audience. A simple video can do this just as well as a video with lots of special effects. However, **avoid** simply reading or reciting your presentation into a camera while standing beside your display.
3. **You can use your Heritage Fairs display [if you create one]!** Think of the video audience just as you would a live audience at the Heritage Fair. Tell your story, explain your topic, and show us your display. With a video, you can do close-ups and small re-enactments with your model, focusing the audience's eyes on exactly what you want them to see. You can answer questions just as you would at the in-person Heritage Fair. You can ask these questions yourself or have another person ask you the questions.
4. **You do not need to interview anyone!** For many topics, finding someone relevant to interview might not be possible. You also have to consider whether your interview really adds to your story and whether the person you want to interview wants to appear on camera. You can also choose to include an interview in a separate video as extra content, keeping your main video focused on your presentation overall.
5. **You do not need to go "on location"!** Some students do their projects about locations close to their homes or about people that live close to them. If you have the chance to go to a historic site, museum, local place, or relative's house connected to your topic, filming there can really add to the impact of your video on your audience. However, you can make just as much of an impact by creating your video at school or at home, especially if you did your project on something non-local.
6. **Your face does not need to appear at all!** You can narrate your video without being seen or you can use title cards to convey important points. You can also appear only in part, such as your hands drawing or moving puppets around. You can use toys, such as LEGO, action figures, or stuffed animals, to construct sets and act out scenes.
7. **You can perform skits or re-enactments!** You can enlist help from your friends and family to perform skits or re-enact important scenes related to your topic. Just be careful that these do not get too complicated and distract from your overall story and presentation.
8. **As long as you are respectful, you can be funny and creative!** Audiences remember things better when they are entertained. However, consider that people from across Saskatchewan and beyond will be watching your video, so you are representing your community to the world. Some topics are not funny. Do not use racism, sexism, homophobia, etc.
9. **If you want to demonstrate other skills that you have, go ahead!** If you want to play music, sing, dance, demonstrate a sport, do gymnastics, or anything else that contributes to

sharing your Heritage Fairs topic, that is great! Performing a song that you have written yourself (or one by someone else that is in the public domain) is also a great way to get around dealing with copyright issues. You can also submit this as a separate video as an extra to your presentation, such as you performing a whole dance instead of just some steps.

10. **You do not have to create your video alone!** Even though the student(s) whose project it is will be the star/director/producer of each video, you can collaborate with friends and classmates. You can also bring in family members and friends (see #7). If you have friends or relatives with video-editing or other related expertise, feel free to ask them for help.

Tips About Creating Videos:

1. **Use the equipment that you have!** If you have access to a smartphone, tablet, or other recording device at home or school, use those to create your video. Windows MovieMaker and iMovie will help you create good-quality videos. If you have access to other equipment through family or friends, it is fine to use those too.
2. **Use what you have already created for your Heritage Fair project!** Did you create a model or diorama for your display? Do you have artefacts that you want to show off? Photos or charts on your backboard? Feel free to use these for your video.
3. **Plan ahead!** You will spend a lot more time editing your video than filming it. Make sure to leave enough time to put your video together. If you want to interview anyone or film on-location, you need to make sure that their schedules align with yours.
4. **Have a back-up plan!** Weather might mean that you can't film outside. You or your friend might get sick. Your phone might run out of battery.
5. **Record your voice separately, especially if you are doing a lot of filming outside!** Record your speech on its own with as little background noise as possible. (A closet works well for this.) You can then put your speech over other footage, such as close-ups of your display from your Heritage Fairs or anything that you film outdoors. Background noise is very hard to get rid of and there is a lot of it outdoors, especially if it is windy.
6. **Make sure to get permission!** When in doubt, get permission. All interviewees need to sign a permission form. Most music is copyrighted, so if you want to include music in your video, it is best to use music that is copyright-free.
7. **Make sure to give credit!** You will need to devote at least 10-15 seconds for your credits at the end of your video. Not only do you need to credit your sources for your information, but you also need to credit anyone who appears in the video, anyone who helps you with the video, any music that you use, and any photos/video/audio that you did not create yourself. If you film at a non-public place, make sure to thank whoever allows you to do so.
8. **Make sure to keep your main video under 10 minutes!** You can include separate videos with further information and content. Judges will still look at these, but they will be primarily evaluating your main video. Think of your main video as the one that needs to get the viewer's interest so that they will want to keep watching other videos to learn more.
9. **Have fun and do not be intimidated by other videos!** This is not a contest for best video production or acting, although there may be prizes for some of these skills. In the end, you have to teach your audience about your Heritage Fairs topic and discuss its importance to Canadian heritage. Everyone has different skills, comfort levels, and resources.