

Second Norwegian History Competition

“Love, Cohabitation and Family”

2001 / 2002

Report

Background

The topic of our competition 2001/2002 was "Love, Cohabitation and Family". The students were asked to evaluate the family in a historical perspective; to comment what sort of changes have taken place through the past, and what has remained the same. In order to make such an evaluation the students were supposed to conduct a case study using local sources. Many of the students chose topics suggested in the invitation to the competition.

58 pupils produced 18 contributions of different types, essays, CD-ROM and video tape. The first prize winners were Silje Halvorsen, Ingrid Halvorsen and Tonia Birgitte Jansd. Rike: "Childhood in the Past and Present – Images from Grandmothers Childhood". The second prize winners were: Camilla Salvesen Baardsen, Oliver Jon Jørgensen Larsen and Paul Remi Løite: "The Industrial Plant Hunsfos and the Cohabitation Forms in the Local Community".

These two prize winning contributions came from the same school; Vennesla videregående skole (Vennesla.vgs.no) in the southern part of the country and one can find the contributions under the school's home page ("prosjekter", "E-læring med bredbånd").

Methodology

The contributions show use of a wide range of different sources such as oral sources, written sources, statistical sources, fiction, published collections of memories etc.

There is a tendency that the students easily accept the sources both oral and written. We think however that they have been able to place the sources in a wider historical context. They combine sources consisting of personal evidence, with statistics and secondary literature.

Conclusion

As organisers we are content with the quality of the contributions. They were all reasonable attempts of real research work on different levels. The main task for next year's competition is to increase the number of participants. In June 2002 we sent an invitation brochure in five copies to every school in Norway.

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