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My competition entry was about...

...the rivalry between my hometown Sliven and the neighbouring town Yambol. Back in the Middle Ages the residents of these two cities were not on good terms. Even today, there is a dispute about which city is better – Sliven or Yambol. But in the 19th century intellectuals realized the need for conflict resolution in favour of both cities.



* 1999

Topic of history competition:

Boundaries in History
- History without Boundaries

Year of participation:

2016

Title of your competition entry:

» Beyond an old intercity rivalry - Sliven and Yambol in the 19th and 20th centuries «



How did you decide on your topic?

Sliven is my hometown and participating in the history competition was the best way to learn about its history. I tried to answer the question why conflicts arise between cities by giving an explication based on the rivalry between Sliven and Yambol. We wanted to seek the other side by bridging differences and working on a common cause.



How did you react when you came upon surprising points during your research?

I was surprised by the hatred brought towards the population of the neighbouring city. My competition partner and I came across “comic situations” during our research: One of them concerns an article in a Yambol newspaper titled “Mineral water was found 21 km from Yambol”. It is the exact distance between the two cities but Yambol’s journalist did not want to mention Sliven although the source of mineral water is directly in Sliven.



Did the research affect you personally?

The research enriched my knowledge about the history of my hometown and Yambol. Furthermore, my partner Daniel and I did our first interviews and history research together. I also have learned a lot about filming and editing in general.

I based my research

- ...on source material
- ...on interviews
- ...on family history
- ...on literature
- ...on the internet

» We build the future based on the past and present combined «

