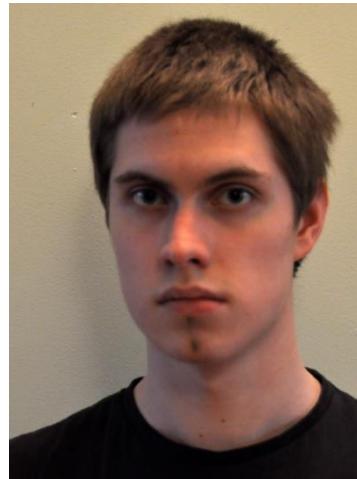




Jasper Ristkok
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My competition entry was about...

...constructing a leaf spring crossbow through trial and error, calculating the efficient crossbow bolt through test shots and later comparing my research with historical data. In my research paper I provided a project report and an overview about crossbows.



*1997

Topic of history competition:

Estonian Cause

Year of participation:

2016

Title of your competition entry:

» Leaf spring crossbow «



How did you decide on your topic?

My school promoted our national History Competition and after seeing my friend working on a research paper by building a steam train model, I decided to combine the research with my hobby of technical construction. Furthermore, my fascination with the medieval era made the research paper the perfect combination.



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

The biggest surprise in my research was that during the work many complications arose: 50% of the time went into fixing the problems. My goal was to construct the crossbow myself and search information about it afterwards. Another surprise was that there is relatively little information about crossbows. Therefore, I had to remain a bit skeptical whether to trust some sources. My main source was a book written in 1903.



Did the research affect you personally?

During the research I learned a vast amount about crossbows and the history behind them. Additionally, I learned some work techniques. Above all, I understood that, given enough time and effort, even the most complicated problems can be overcome. The most important thing I learned is that in order to truly invent something, the most efficient way is to dive into the subject without prior knowledge.



I based my research

- ...on source material
- ...on interviews
- ...on family history
- ...on literature
- ...on the internet
- ...on tests
- ...on personal experience

» With enough time and effort anything is possible. «

