Guide to Writing DBQ's
DBQ RULES

Step 1: Directions
- Read all directions

Step 2: Constructed Response Questions
- Answer CRQs in complete sentences
- Be sure to use the document to answer the questions
- Be specific
- Answer the question in your own words

Step 3: Outline
- Create an outline like the one shown on the next page
- Use the Task to write your thesis statement
- Write topic sentences based on the Task/essay question
- Place the name of the documents under the appropriate topic sentences
  - For each document include:
    - Two key facts that answer the essay question
    - An analysis of the document
- Include at least 4 outside facts in your essay
- Restate your thesis for the concluding sentence
### DBQ OUTLINE ORGANIZER

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<tr>
<th>THESIS STATEMENT:</th>
<th>TASK/TOpic SENTENCE:</th>
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| RESTATE THESIS STATEMENT: |
**Step 4: Introduction**
- Start with a general statement
- Then write 2-3 sentences describing the historical setting (who, what, when and where)
- The last sentence will be your thesis statement which will be based on the *Task*

```
General

Specific
```

**Step 5: Body Paragraphs** — You should have at least one body paragraph for each task
- Begin with a topic sentence stating what the paragraph will be about
- Explain how the document(s) you have chosen answers the task and state the document you are referring to (*i.e. According to Abraham Lincoln...*)
- Include at least two details/examples from each document
- Include an analysis of each document
- Include at least 4 outside facts throughout the essay

**Step 6: Conclusion**
- Begin with a restatement of your thesis
- Then write 3-4 sentences summarizing the main points you made in your essay

```
Specific

General
```
DBQ Pyramid

Introduction

Task

Historical Context

Intro Sentence

2-3 sentences from this

Your thesis comes from this

Topic Sentence

Analyze Details

Details – Give two or more

Outside Information

* Restate your thesis in different words

* 3-4 sentences summarizing the main points of your body paragraphs

Conclusion

* To help you write a good body paragraph, remember our friend TAD O.
DBQ OUTLINE/ORGANIZER

INTRODUCTION

Start with a general statement about the subject

Then write 2-3 sentences describing the historical setting (who, what, when, where) this should come from the HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The last sentence in this paragraph will be your THESIS STATEMENT and should come from the TASK
Write a topic sentence saying what this paragraph will be about

Explain how the document you have chosen answers the question(s) asked in the TASK. You could begin this sentence with: According to......(state the source of the document)

Analyze the document by thinking "What is the author trying to tell me?" State and discuss the author's purpose to INFORM or PERSUADE Or - Discuss the author's opinion. Is he/she biased (or having a strong opinion)?

Give two details about the document:
1)

2)

Then find outside information that relates to the idea or subject of this document – include at least 1 or 2 outside facts for this document.
1)

2)
BODY PARAGRAPHS

Write a topic sentence saying what this paragraph will be about

Explain how the document you have chosen answers the question(s) asked in the TASK. You could begin this sentence with: According to......(state the source of the document)

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1) 

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Then find outside information that relates to the idea or subject of this document – include at least 1 or 2 outside facts for this document.

1) 

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2) 

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Conclusion

Restate your thesis (in different words)

Then write 3-4 sentences that summarize the main points you made in your essay
How and Why to Analyze Documents

**Why?**
- In order to understand history one must critically view and analyze primary source documents.
- Analyzing documents in your DBQ is the difference between a score of a 1-3 or a 4-5. Basically, the difference between passing and failing.

**How to Analyze Documents?**
- First, state the source of the document i.e. photographer, author, speaker, newspaper title, etc....

**Then...**
- Identify and discuss the author's purpose (to persuade, inform or entertain=PIE)
  Or....
- State whether or not the author is biased and discuss his/her position
Grading rubric and student self-assessment for DBQ’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction and Conclusion</th>
<th>Student Check</th>
<th>Teacher Check</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and Conclusion have at least 3 sentences and a thesis that includes the task. Conclusion starts by restating the thesis.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Topic Sentences</th>
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<td>An appropriate topic sentence is provided for each body paragraph.</td>
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<th>Task</th>
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<td>All parts of the task are addressed in detail.</td>
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<th>Documents</th>
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<tr>
<td>The appropriate number of documents are included with a full description for each document used.</td>
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<th>Analysis</th>
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<td>Each document is accurately analyzed.</td>
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