

DBQ Guidelines & Advice

In order to prepare for upcoming in-class DBQ essay you should consider the following:

- 1.) Start by answering the questions for each document. If you print the pages, put your answers on the paper. If you are not printing the pages then you should write out your responses on a piece of paper.
- 2.) After completing the documents you should organize them and figure out which ones you will use in your essay (the essay requires a ***minimum of 4 documents*** to be utilized in your essay).
- 3.) Next, you should create a list of ***outside information*** that you will also include in your essay. ***Outside information*** is anything that is not found in the documents but is considered relevant in addressing the Task of the essay. You can find outside information in your textbook or even your class notes (or your own memories from our study!).
- 4.) Then, create an outline for the essay that includes **a thesis statement** and an organization for the paragraphs of your essay. In your outline you should plan where you will use the documents and outside information.
 - a. I would suggest making a two-column chart to organize the facts, examples and details you want to include in the essay.

Documents you plan to use	Relevant Outside Information
Minimum of four documents should be used (but DO NOT use them all!)	What facts, examples, and details can you think of that are related to the topic but are NOT found in the documents.

- b. In order to have enough analysis you want to include substantial outside information in your essay. Best advice is that you should have an equal amount of document info to outside info (or even more outside information).
- 5.) Finally, write a draft of the essay. After you're finished you should edit the essay by reflecting on whether or not you have fully addressed the Task of the essay and included sufficient documents and outside information. You CANNOT bring this draft to class but it would be a good opportunity to practice writing before you face the pressure of the classroom on the day of the in-class essay.
- 6.) A reminder, when citing the documents in your essay you should use the author's name as a reference and at the end of the sentence cite it with (Doc. __).

Example: According to Mr. Smith in a History of the USA, "technology played an important role in the development of the west" (Doc. 4a) which shows that the settlement of the west was not possible without progress.

NOT acceptable: According to Document 4a "technology played an important role in the development of the west." **Also unacceptable:** "Technology played an important role in the development of the west" (Doc. 4a).

Don't just "throw" quotes in your essay without any context or explanation.