

DBQ's in World History

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What is a DBQ?

- **DBQ stands for document based question.**
- **A DBQ is an essay that you create using documents in the DBQ and your own knowledge.**
- **The documents in a DBQ might be a picture, newspaper article, photograph, political cartoon, charts, writings from history etc.**
- **The documents are usually primary source documents which let you get closer to the topic by letting you examine history like a historian.**

Why should I use a DBQ?

- It covers just about every part in the reading section of common core, like reading for information (main idea) , analyzing text, giving textual evidence to support analysis, etc.
- It covers the writing sections of common core, like write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- Instead of reading a textbook or listening to other people tell you what to think, you get to decide what you think.

How I Incorporate Them

- **Timed Essays: Traditional 5 paragraph essay.**
- **Timed Writings: This is done in a flip classroom instructional method. Students read and annotate a series of documents the night before, then when they return, I give them 5 minutes to write a thesis statement , analyze the point of view of the documents, or explain what additional document they wish they would have had. All parts emphasized on the AP DBQ exam.**

DBQ Requirements/Strengths/Weaknesses

- **Thesis**
 - ▣ **Students try to use the question prompt as their thesis.**
- **Using all documents**
 - ▣ **Usually not a problem, but using historical terminology, names, dates, places, etc. is.**
- **POV**
 - ▣ **All over the place depending on the essay topic. They usually just say “they are biased” without actually saying why.**
- **Using Add Doc**
 - ▣ **I find this to be the easiest thing for my students to grasp**

Scoring Guide for AP World History

Document-Based Question

Basic Core: Competence	Points	Historical Thinking Skills Assessed
1. Has acceptable thesis.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation ➤ Depending on the topic of the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Causation • Comparison • Patterns of Continuity and Change Over Time
2. Addresses all of the documents and demonstrates understanding of all or all but one.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use of Historical Evidence
3. Supports thesis with appropriate evidence from all or all but one document. [Supports thesis with appropriate evidence from all but two documents.]	2 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation ➤ Depending on the topic of the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Causation • Comparison • Patterns of Continuity and Change Over Time
4. Analyzes point of view in at least two documents	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use of Historical Evidence
5. Analyzes documents by grouping them in two or three ways, depending on the question.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation ➤ Use of Historical Evidence ➤ Depending on the topic of the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Causation • Comparison • Patterns of Continuity and Change Over Time
6. Identifies and explains the need for one type of appropriate additional document or source.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Argumentation ➤ Use of Historical Evidence
Subtotal	7	Essay as a whole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Synthesis

Expanded Core

Expanded Core: Excellence	Points	Historical Thinking Skills Assessed
<p>Expands beyond basic core of 1–7 points. A student must earn 7 points in the basic core area before earning points in the expanded core area.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis. ➤ Shows careful and insightful analysis of the documents. ➤ Uses documents persuasively as evidence. ➤ Analyzes point of view in most or all documents. ➤ Analyzes the documents in additional ways, groupings, comparisons, syntheses. ➤ Brings in relevant “outside” historical content. ➤ Explains why additional types of document(s) or sources are needed. 	0-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Same skills as noted in basic core ➤ Other historical thinking skills may be demonstrated depending on the question and the documents <p>Score/Averages</p> <p>9=100</p> <p>8=95</p> <p>7=90</p> <p>6=85</p> <p>5=80</p> <p>4=75</p> <p>3=70</p> <p>2=65</p> <p>1=60</p>
Subtotal	2	
Total	9	

What do you do?

- **Do you have an AP program? Are you interested in starting one?**
- **What grade are most of your students? What trends do you notice because of their grade?**
- **How do you go about teaching the DBQ essay? How do you score it?**
- **What problems/trends do you see your students doing?**

Open Questions?

- **What questions do you have for me?**