

DBQ Essay Outline Guide

Use the following outline to plan and write your essays, in response to a Document Based Question (DBQ). The format is similar to a FRQ (Free Response Question) but your evidence will be based on Primary Documents that you will be supplied with.

- I. INTRODUCTION
 - A. Attention getting sentence
 1. Something that will grab the readers attention
 - B. Background information on the topic or question. (date, place, situation surrounding the issue or question)
 - C. Definition of terms contained within the question
 - D. Thesis and roadmap of what the essay will be about
- II. BODY PARAGRAPH #1 (Reason one)
 - A. Sub Thesis:
 1. The first reason that you provided in your original Thesis
 - B. Evidence
 1. What information from either documents or sources is there to support your sub thesis
 2. Use evidence from the documents or sources to provide two to three details about Reason #1 or your Sub Thesis
 - a. Make sure that you state according to what document In your writing EXAMPLE: (Document A, B, C, D, etc.)
 - C. Argument
 1. Explanation of why Reason #1 is one factor that answers that question
- III. BODY PARAGRAPH #2 (Reason Two)
 - A. Sub Thesis:
 1. The second reason that you provided in your original Thesis
 - B. Evidence
 1. What information from either documents or sources is there to support your sub thesis
 2. Use evidence from the documents or sources to provide two to three details about Reason #1 or your Sub Thesis
 - a. Make sure that you state according to what document In your writing EXAMPLE: (Document A, B, C, D, etc.)
 - C. Argument
 1. Explanation of why Reason #2 is one factor that answers that question
- IV. BODY PARAGRAPH #3 (Reason three)
 - A. Sub Thesis:
 1. The third reason that you provided in your original Thesis
 - B. Evidence
 1. What information from either documents or sources is there to support your sub thesis
 2. Use evidence from the documents or sources to provide two to three details about Reason #1 or your Sub Thesis
 - a. Make sure that you state according to what document In your writing EXAMPLE: (Document A, B, C, D, etc.)
 - C. Argument
 1. Explanation of why Reason #3 is one factor that answers that question
- V. MAIN ARGUMENT AND/OR CONCLUSION
 - A. Restatement of your thesis
 1. This is not an exact duplication of your Thesis but a restatement (in differing words) of your Thesis statement
 - B. Summarize the key idea of your argument(s)

- C. Explanation of why the question is significant or important.
1. Why is the question important today?
 2. Why was/is the question important to remember

DBQ ESSAY OUTLINE

Title:

Paragraph 1

Attention getting statement – Grabber

Background

Stating the question with key terms defined within the question

Thesis and road map

What is the answer to the question and what reasons are you going to offer to prove your answer

Paragraph 2

Sub Thesis - One of the reasons of proof you offered in your Thesis

Evidence: Supporting detail with references to the specific documents or sources

Argument: Connect your evidence to your thesis

Paragraph 3

Sub Thesis – Reason 2 of proof that you offered in your Thesis

Evidence: Supporting details for Reason 2 (sub thesis) with references to the specific documents or sources

Argument: Connect your evidence to your thesis

Paragraph 4

Sub Thesis – Reason 3 of proof that you offered in your Thesis

Evidence: Supporting details for Reason 3 (sub thesis) with references to the specific documents or sources

Argument: Connect your evidence to your thesis

Paragraph 5

Conclusion

Statement of your main idea, restatement of your thesis