

Pathway for Writing a DBQ



1. Understand the Question

- Make sure to read the directions and the task and historical context
- What is the task asking you to do?
- Underline key words, names, dates, numbers, issues, or events in the task and historical context



2. Brainstorm (What do you already know?)

- How do you plan to answer the task
- Write down a list of ideas to answer the task (this will be your outside information)
- List factual details to support your ideas



3. Analyze the Documents

- What evidence (PROOF) is there in the documents?
- What do the documents mean?
- ***Write and take notes on the documents
- Answer all document questions in complete sentences



4. Organize Your Essay

- Introduction: Include a thesis statement (what is the essay going to be about?)
- Body Paragraphs: Proofs and Explanation/Details to support your thesis
- What documents will you use? Outside information?
- Conclusion: restate the thesis/wrap up your argument



5. Write the Essay

- Use the outline/graphic organizer to write your essay

6. Edit

- Read over your answer
 - Does it address all aspects of the task?
 - Have you explained the documents?
 - Did you include outside information
 - Is the essay organized?
 - Is there proper grammar and mechanics?



DBQ Brainstorm

What is a DBQ? What should I always remember?