



WHEN YOU HAVE TO DO A DBQ

**BUT THEN REALIZE YOUR TEACHER IS GOING
OVER HOW TO EARN EVERY POINT**

DBQ Response Guidelines

Directions

In your response, you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least six documents.
- Use at least one additional piece of specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt.
- For at least three documents, explain how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
- Use evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt

Point 1: Develop a Thesis...

- Your historically based opinion that addresses all aspects of the question
- Keep the **Historical Thinking Skill** in mind when creating your thesis (*comparison, causation, continuity and change over time*)

Point 2: Contextualization

- In 2-3 sentences in the introduction put the question into its historical context
- Talk about events/ideas/influences from either before or after the topic of the prompt
- **My Pro Tip:** do this *twice* – once in the intro and once in the conclusion

Point 3: Accurately Describe 3 Documents

- **NO QUOTES**
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- **NO QUOTES**
- Do describe the documents in your own words

Point 4: Use SIX documents to support an argument

- Have arguments that support your thesis
- USE the documents to support your arguments
- You can also use them as part of a counter-claim that you disagree with

Point 5: Include Relevant Knowledge Beyond the Documents

- You need to know something
- It needs to be relevant to the prompt/thesis
- It needs to be part of an argument

Point 6: Source **THREE** Documents

- For **THREE** documents, while using them as part of an argument you need to discuss **ONE** of the following is relevant to your argument:
 - The author's **POINT OF VIEW**
 - The author's **PURPOSE IN CREATING THE SOURCE**
 - The author's **HISTORICAL CONTEXT/SITUATION**
 - The author's **AUDIENCE**

Point 7: The Bonus Point

- Throughout the essay the quality of your response will show a “Complex Understanding”
- This point is not really earned by doing a specific task
- It is awarded more holistically for the overall quality of the essay
- This could include – having counter claims, examining multiple factors and perspectives, considering multiple variables and points of view

