

Snapshot of a DBQ: What Your AP Euro DBQ Should Look Like

Part #1 (Opening Paragraph):

1. Start with a short introduction (2-3 sentences maximum)
2. End the paragraph with a clearly worded thesis which directly addresses all parts of the question but does not simply restate the question.
3. Your thesis should begin with the words “Based on the documents provided,…”
4. When possible, consider the following basic format if appropriate to the question:

“Based on the documents provided, X because of Y.”

Part #2 (First Group of Documents):

1. Begin the second paragraph with the sentence “The documents can be divided into three main groups.”
2. Follow this sentence with a sentence describing your first group of documents. Be sure to point out what they have in common and then list the documents in the group. Don’t just list the documents!
3. When possible, point out sub-groupings within the major groupings.
4. Next proceed to analyze each document in the group (in the order they are listed in your groupings sentence).
5. Focus your analysis of each document on Bias and Point of View. Remember that the DBQ is a test of your ability to handle primary sources by grouping them and analyzing their reliability.
6. Also, keep your analysis of B and PofV focused on and related to the thesis.

Part #3 (Second Group of Documents):

1. Repeat process for the second group of documents and, once again, a third

Part #4 (Conclusion)

1. Very briefly re-state the thesis and in 2-3 sentences summarize what you have found from your examination of the documents

Remember:

1. This is not an English class essay. Unlearn what you have learned.
2. Analyze as many documents as you possible can. Your goal is to analyze all of them.
3. If you follow this template properly you will get an A from Mr. DePalma and a 9 from the College Board on May 11th.