

Writing the DBQ
7-point rubric (2015)

Prompt: _____.

Brainstorming:

Component	Examples
Thesis (0-1)	
Background - just a couple of sentences. Set the stage; establish some context for the prompt. What is going on in the US that leads to this topic? (no points yet)	

Component	Examples
Thesis (0-1)	continued ...
<p>Thesis statement - one to three sentences.</p> <p>Take a clear position. Directly address all parts of the prompt. This should stand alone as a short answer to the prompt. (1 point)</p>	
Argument with Analysis of Documents (0-3)	
<p>This will be several paragraphs. Each paragraph should EXPLAIN a different aspect of your thesis. Prove your point. Incorporate the documents as evidence, at the point where they fit into your argument. Be sure to make a clear connection between each doc and your thesis. (1 point for using at least 4 docs appropriately)</p> <p>When you introduce a document, go on to address at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intended audience • purpose • historical context (setting) • author's point of view (who is s/he?) <p>(1 point for 4 docs; 2 points for 6 – try to use all!)</p>	

Component	Examples
<p style="text-align: center;">Argument with Analysis of Documents (0-3)</p>	<p>continued ...</p>
<p>This will be several paragraphs. Each paragraph should EXPLAIN a different aspect of your thesis. Prove your point. Incorporate the documents as evidence, at the point where they fit into your argument. Be sure to make a clear connection between each doc and your thesis.</p> <p>(1 point for using at least 4 docs appropriately)</p> <p>When you introduce a document, go on to address at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intended audience • purpose • historical context (setting) • author’s point of view (who is s/he?) <p>(1 point for 4 docs; 2 points for 6 – try to use all!)</p>	
<p>Outside Information (0-1)</p>	
<p>Incorporate outside information into your support paragraphs, as appropriate. Be sure to make it clear how each item you include supports your argument.</p> <p>(you need several pieces of evidence, throughout your essay, with explanation, to get this 1 point)</p>	

Component	Examples
Outside Information (0-1)	continued ...
<p>Incorporate outside information into your support paragraphs, as appropriate. Be sure to make it clear how each item you include supports your argument.</p> <p>(you need several pieces of evidence, throughout your essay, with explanation, to get this 1 point)</p>	
Contextualization (0-1)	
<p>Accurately and explicitly connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader historical events and/or processes. This means you have to explain how this all fits into the bigger picture. (You may have started to do this at the very beginning of your essay. Revisit it at the end as a way of summing up.) (1 point)</p>	
Synthesis (0-1)	
<p>Pull it all together clearly and persuasively, AND do one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extend or modify your thesis • acknowledge & account for exceptions to your thesis • connect the topic to <u>other</u> historical periods, places, contexts, or circumstances (1 point) 	

