

DBQ (Document Based Essay) Rubric (Maximum Possible Points: 7)

A. Thesis/Claim (0-1 point)

1 Point

End of Intro ¶ →

- Presents a thesis statement that makes a historically defensible claim, establishes a line of reasoning, and responds to **ALL** parts of the question.
- The thesis statement **MUST** make a claim that responds to **AND** provides an answer to the prompt. The point **WILL NOT** be awarded for simply restating or rephrasing the prompt.
- The thesis statement must consist of one or more sentences typically located at the **END** of the introductory paragraph.

B. Contextualization (0-1 point)

1 Point

Beginning of Intro ¶ →

- Describes **AND** explains **BROADER** historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question
- The point **WILL NOT** be awarded for merely a phrase or a reference.
- The proper application of the reasoning skill, contextualization, requires that a thorough explanation be provided to the reader that **MUST** consist of multiple sentences typically located at the **BEGINNING** of the introductory paragraph.

C. Evidence (0-3 points)

1 Point (evidence from the documents)

- Utilizes the content of at least **THREE** documents to address the topic of the prompt. Responses **MUST** accurately describe **AND** explain the content of the documents. The point **WILL NOT** be awarded for simply providing a quote from the documents.

1 Point (evidence from the documents)

- Utilizes the content of at least **SIX** documents to address the topic of the prompt **AND** support an argument. Responses **MUST** accurately describe **AND** explain the content of the documents **AND** support a stated thesis. The point **WILL NOT** be awarded for simply providing a quote from the documents.

1 Point (evidence beyond the documents)

- Utilizes additional pieces of specific evidence **beyond those found in the documents** to support or qualify the argument. The point **WILL NOT** be awarded for merely a phrase or reference. Responses **MUST** describe **AND** explain the evidence beyond those found in the documents.
- Additional pieces of evidence beyond those found in the documents **MUST BE DIFFERENT** from the evidence used to earn the point for contextualization.

D. Analysis and Reasoning (0-2 points)

1 Point

- For at least **THREE** documents, explains how or why the **historical context**, **audience**, author's **purpose**, or author's **point of view** is relevant to an argument (**the HAPP in MS HAPP**).
- The point **WILL NOT** be awarded for simply identifying, one must **explain** how or why.

1 Point

- Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt.
- Utilizes specific, factual, and relevant evidence to corroborate, qualify, and/or modify an argument that fully and effectively addresses the prompt.

Corroborating an argument

- confirming or providing support to a thesis statement to validate an argument

Qualifying or modifying an argument

- explaining the evidence in greater detail and considering diverse or alternative views or evidence (**YES, BUT...**)

your thesis states you agree with the prompt & your paper explains why in detail

↑
your thesis states you disagree to a certain extent with the prompt & your paper explains why in detail

you should be using all 6 docs.

[Main Idea: Significance to the prompt: your thesis!]

One piece of outside Ev. per Body ¶

3 out of 6 ONE part of -HAPP explain