**“How To” DBQ**

**Initial Notes:** Do not let the documents overwhelm you and make you forget everything you have been practicing with Long-Essay Questions!! This is a regular old essay that needs a thesis statement, arguments in your topic sentences, and evidence to support your arguments. Outline just as you would in a regular LEQ; create your thesis statement and your topic sentences to the prompt then think of the documents as how you would use your evidence. You are given roughly one-hour to read, outline, and write your essay. Follow these steps and ensure to include all of the rubric points and you will be fine.

**Steps to Writing a DBQ:**

**Step 1:** Read the prompt and begin your brainstorm. Write down everything you remember about the themes of the time period (contextualization). Pretend there are no documents in the next pages and outline an essay like you would for a LEQ. What are your main points? What is some evidence you would use to support these points? Take no more than 3 minutes here.

**Step 2**: Read and annotate the documents. Be sure to read the background information on the source first and then read the document. Include your HIPP, no need to include all 4 pieces of HIPP, just the ones that are obvious. Make a note in the margin how this document supports the prompt. The initial reading and annotating your documents should take no more than 15 minutes. You can always come back to them if needed.

**Step 3:** Group the documents together. Remember you are looking for them to Corroborate (support each other), Contradict (go against each other), or Qualify (which documents make you question the other documents). All documents should be included in a grouping. Think of what the argument that these documents in the group are supporting.

**Step 4:** Outline your topic sentences from your groups and then come up with a thesis statement. Double check back to the prompt- is this still on the prompt? Are you doing the action verb the prompt wants? This outline does not need to be long or with full sentences. No need to outline your context or conclusion, just include in the essay. This should take no more than 15 minutes.

**Step 5:** Write the essay. You should have roughly 30 minutes remaining to write the essay now. Try not to go back and re-read any documents unless you absolutely have to as this will only slow your writing down. Go back to your outline and write what you need. Double check the bullet points in the directions and make sure you have included everything you need to for the rubric points.

**Rubric and Notes:**

**Introduction Paragraph: Contextualization + Thesis Statement**

**Note on Context:** Create your historical context from the prompt and the context of the documents. What is happening in the world at this time? What are the major themes going on in this period?

**Note on Thesis:** Your thesis statement needs to clearly address the prompt. Make sure to make a claim or an argument from the prompt using the documents to create your two- to three- part thesis statement. This is the same for LEQ thesis statements, DO NOT BE VAGUE. Think of how you are going to set up the essay’s body paragraphs.

**Body Paragraphs: Document Use + Outside Evidence + Sourcing + Argument**

**Note on Body Paragraph Structure**: Think of this as a regular LEQ, you need to start your paragraph with a topic sentence that is an argument that addresses the prompt. You use the documents as your evidence to support your argument, your argument is NOT the documents themselves.

**Note on Argument:** Come up with a group of 2-3 documents that either Corroborate (support each other), Contradict (say the opposite of each other), or Qualify (limits the document) and have those drive your body paragraph arguments and thus, your thesis statement.

**Note on Document Use:** Refer to your Documents by Number in text or parenthesis (Doc 1, Doc 6, etc.). Do not waste your handwriting summarizing the document, just use it as you would regular evidence in an LEQ. You should try to include all of the documents as evidence in your body paragraphs. (For example, there are 7 documents, if you have three body paragraph arguments they should include 3 documents, 2 documents, and 2 documents).

**Note on Sourcing**: Include important sourcing (HIPP) for the majority of your documents; pick the one thing from HIPP that would be helpful in understanding that document. (For example, if understanding the author’s purpose because it shows strong bias and therefore isn’t trustworthy, include that). There is no reason to use all 4 sourcing tools for each document, and some are more appropriate than others to use.

**Note on Outside Evidence:** Use your outside information in every body paragraph. Remember, you could write this essay without any of the documents- what are the things you would include that would support, contradict, or qualify your argument?

**Conclusion Paragraph: Rephrased Thesis Statement**

Note on Thesis: Look back at your topic sentences in your body paragraphs and be sure

to include all your points in this thesis statement. Be a little more wordy if you need to but

stick to the thesis, don’t include any additional information or weirdly profound

statement.