

## DBQ Secrets to Success

- Make sure you know what the question is asking.
- Look for the point of view of the author of each document.
- Take into account the social status, educational background, profession or other biographical information of the author of each document.
- Look for the tone of each document (look for sarcasm, etc.).
- Look very carefully at the date of each document.
- Look for change over time in the documents.
- Look for possible solutions in the documents.
- Remember that the documents are not necessarily facts. Many times the documents simply express an opinion or perception.
- Respect the documents.
- Do not make a document say something it doesn't really say.
- Assume the reader of the exam knows the documents inside and out but cite the documents that you use either with author or number but not with both.
- Documents are often given in chronological order BUT do not use them in chronological order.
- Use at least half + one of the documents, more if possible.
- Use of all the documents is not necessary but is sometimes helpful. Don't force the documents to fit, though.
- The thesis must not be simply a restatement of the question.
- Use "3" - 3 problems, 3 solutions, 3 arguments, 3 groupings, 3 points of view, etc.
- Do not ramble.
- Answer the question that is asked and address each part of the question.
- Remember that there is no one right answer on the DBQ.
- Use a grid or chart to organize your information.
- Use outside historical information to bolster your essay.
- Do not include information in your essay unless you are sure it is correct.