AP European History

**Foolproof DBQ Plan**

Introduction

* Address background of historical era
* Write a 1-2 sentence thesis statement
  + Your thesis should include your 3-4 subcategories (think of these as your sub-arguments)
  + Your thesis should address the whole prompt

Body Paragraph #1

* Introduce subcategory (sub-argument)
* Document A
  + Introduce author
  + Paraphrase the document (do not quote)
  + Cite the document (doc A)
  + Analyze the document
    - How does the document support your thesis?
    - Is there an example of bias, point of view, or change over time?
* Documents B
  + Introduce author
  + Paraphrase the document (do not quote)
  + Cite the document (doc B)
  + Analyze the document
    - How does the document support your thesis?
    - Is there an example of bias, point of view, or change over time?
* Documents C
  + Introduce author
  + Paraphrase the document (do not quote)
  + Cite the document (doc C)
  + Analyze the document
    - How does the document support your thesis?
    - Is there an example of bias, point of view, or change over time?
* Conclusion/transition sentence

Body Paragraph #2

* Same layout as body paragraph #1

Body Paragraph #3

* Same layout as body paragraph #1

Body Paragraph #4 (optional – good for expanded core points)

* Same layout as body paragraph #1

Conclusion

* Restate thesis statement and subcategories/sub-arguments
* Optional: Address change over time
* Optional: Significance of historical era

**Checklist**

* Do I have a competent thesis that takes a stance and addresses the whole prompt?
* Did I discuss all or nearly all of the documents?
* Did I correctly interpret the documents?
* Did I support the thesis with the documents?
* Did I analyze bias/P.O.V. in 4 or more documents?
* Do I have 3 or more subcategories?

**Thesis Tips**

* A good thesis takes a stance and addresses the whole prompt
* Thesis formulas (one size does not fit all…)
  + What you plan to argue + how you plan to argue it = thesis statement
  + Argument + 3 reasons why = thesis statement
  + Informed statement of topic + significant observation about the topic = thesis statement
  + Thesis statement = phenomenon x is a result of the combination of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* After you have written a thesis statement, read it to yourself, and then think about the following:
  + 1) If a person read your thesis and asks“so what?”, “how?”, or “why?”, then it is probably not a good thesis statement.
  + 2) Could a reasonable person disagree with your statement? If yes, then it is probably not a good thesis statement.
  + 3) Does your thesis take a stance on an issue? If no, then it is not a good thesis statement.