**Writing the DBQ**

***Step 1: Prompt***

* and the prompt.
* What is the prompt you to do?
* What is being assessed?
  + Causation, Continuity and Change, Comparison, Contextualization, Argumentation, Appropriate use of Evidence, Interpretation, Synthesis.
* Is there more than one part to the question?
  + **Answer**

***Step 2: Brainstorm***

* Brainstorm what you know about the topic reading

\*\*Historical Background a document and  be referenced\*\*

***Step 3: Reading***

* Read the documents
  + each document, circle key
  + Note the and .
  + Note if the document is a or source.
  + did the choose each document? **Remember that each document was chosen for a reason!**
* the documents into AT LEAST categories
* Examples:
* Grouping is but helpful

***Step 4: Outline your argument.***

* Write a , with of documents.
* Outline the of each paragraph.

**The thesis statement:** A thesis is simply a historically defensible  you take on a particular topic. It should not resemble a sentence from a textbook, but rather your and it .

**The Rules**

**USE THE OF THE PROMPT**  the question, just make sure to use the important . It’ll keep you on target.

**ANSWER PARTS OF THE QUESTION** – Some topics are naturally easier or more interesting to you. You need to do all of them, especially the ones you don’t want to.

**THIS IS THE SIZZLE, THE MAIN BODY IS THE STEAK** – You want to be “specifically general”; tell the reader what you’ll be talking about, but don’t .

**The Qualification:** Is what you say always true always? Are there exceptions? Are there good reasons why your position may have a downside? How can you make your position have a reality check? What general reasons why your position may have problems can you admit up front? To make absolute statements usually causes your essay’s thesis to seem foolishly simplistic. Here’s a trick: begin your qualification with a word like “although” or “despite”. **EXAMPLE: "Despite its work relief elements and large government programs,“**

**The Reason:** In general why do you believe your position to be correct in spite of your qualification? What is the over all good to be gained by agreeing with your position? This is a general statement; your three specific reasons will follow in the body of your essay. **EXAMPLE: "because its main programs attempted to create a stable environment for private enterprise."**

**Put them all together.:** In one or two sentences, present your thesis, including a qualification, a reason, and a position. The classic, traditional way of combining is to first present your qualification. Then present your general reason which demonstrates your thinking process, and finally the punch line--your position.

**EXAMPLE: "Despite its work relief elements and large government programs, the New Deal is best understood as a defense of American capitalism because its main programs attempted to create a stable environment for private enterprise."**

***Step 5: Introduction***

* Set the of your response.
* Context must show that you understand around the topic to which you are being asked to respond.
* Thesis must answer the question.

***Step 6: Evidence and Argument***

* Write paragraphs in which you . One per separate sentence.
* Your sentences are your .
* Use the and include the , the author’s /perspective, the of the document.
* Place your response in context- on during this time.
* Include a much (not from the documents) information as possible.
* what you mean.
* “ ” IS YOUR FRIEND

How to use documents

* ***NEVER begin with: In , ….. Or …***
* Thomas Paine, in his pamphlet, Common Sense, argued: “………………….” (Doc. 2)

***\*\*Step 7: Concession\*\****(Only in certain situations)

* Explain the argument to what you have just written and it.

***Step 8: Synthesis/Conclusion***

1. Restate the of your argument while placing your argument in the .
2. Synthesis goes here: “ .”

* Connect your essay to events of another era, situation or context, time period, or geographical area or region...OR connect to a different course theme (economic, social, cultural, political, intellectual history) that’s not central to the question.