

THE 2020 APUSH DBQ Template

This outline is to help you plan your DBQ on the 2020 AP Exam. You write in the white boxes and your instructions are in the blue boxes. Follow this outline in order and you will be on track to writing a strong essay. *Please note, your essay does not have to follow this format to be a great essay, this is designed to make the skill repeatable and to help you have structure for how to approach the AP exam. Boxes will expand as you write if needed.*

THE PROMPT:	
WHAT IS THE PROMPT ASKING YOU TO DO WITH THE DOCUMENTS?	

START BY READING AND ANALYZING THE DOCUMENTS
If you are only planning on using three instead of four... just do three.
Choose the ones you understand best!
Remember if you use two of the three effectively, you are on track to earn 4 points.

DOCUMENT 1	DOCUMENT 2	DOCUMENT 3	DOCUMENT 4	DOCUMENT 5
SPEAKER <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	SPEAKER <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	SPEAKER <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	SPEAKER <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	SPEAKER <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
SUMMARY/Description <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	SUMMARY/Description <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	SUMMARY/Description <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	SUMMARY/Description <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	SUMMARY/Description <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Historical Situation <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Historical Situation <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Historical Situation <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Historical Situation <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	Historical Situation <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
PURPOSE or POV <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	PURPOSE or POV <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	PURPOSE or POV <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	PURPOSE or POV <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	PURPOSE or POV <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
How the doc. Supports your argument <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	How the doc. Supports your argument <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	How the doc. Supports your argument <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	How the doc. Supports your argument <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	How the doc. Supports your argument <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
WHAT ARE THE 2 or 3 MAIN CLAIMS IN RESPONSE TO THE PROMPT THESE DOCUMENTS PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF? (How do the documents respond to the prompt?)	CLAIM 1 <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	CLAIM 2 <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	CLAIM 3 <input style="width: 90%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	

WHAT TO WRITE	PLAN YOUR ESSAY BELOW	HELPFUL HINTS
INTRO PARAGRAPH		Context = setting the scene, the background

<p>Make sure it includes historical context AND your thesis. Remember your thesis MUST be in your first or final paragraph. Do NOT put your thesis in your second paragraph.</p>		<p>information someone would need to know in order to understand the significance of the topic. You need at least two sentences plus a linkage statement.</p> <p>Use the lingo: <i>The historical context was ...</i></p> <p><i>This historical context relates to the topic of _____ because...</i></p> <p>THESIS: 1-2 sentences, sets up the arguments you will provide evidence to support. Use the formula: <i>Although X, Y because...</i></p> <p>Make sure you are not just restating the prompt.</p> <p>IF the prompt includes “extent,” make sure you give value using that term!</p> <p>IF the prompt only addresses one side of the skill... address both. Use the one side in your X and the other in your Y.</p>
<p>Document #1 Paragraph Use the 3-step strategy for one document. Don't forget to close the loop!</p>		<p>Step 1: <i>Document # _____ explains ...</i></p> <p><i>This document relates to the topic of _____ because...</i></p>
<p>Document #2 Paragraph Use the 3-step strategy for a second document. Don't forget to close the loop!</p>		<p>Step 2: <i>The _____ (HIPP) of the document was _____ because...</i></p>

		<p><i>This _____ (HIPP) is relevant to the argument that _____ because...</i></p> <p>Step 3: <i>Therefore...</i></p>
<p>Document #3 Paragraph Use the 3-step strategy for a third document. Don't forget to close the loop!</p>		
<p>Outside Evidence Paragraph Use TWO or more pieces of evidence NOT found in the documents to defend your argument. They can be in one paragraph or two separate paragraphs.</p>		<p>Make sure your outside evidence is specific. Make sure you explain what it is AND how it supports your X or Y argument.</p> <p><i>One piece of outside evidence that supports the argument that _____ Is _____ Because...</i></p> <p><i>A second piece of outside evidence that supports the argument that _____ Is _____ Because...</i></p>
<p>Complexity Adding your insightful connections as you write can help you earn the unicorn point of complexity.</p> <p>You need at least TWO methods in your essay.</p> <p>If you use the thesis formula and set up a complex argument in your introduction followed by defending</p>		<p>Top Three COMPLEXITY Strategies:</p> <p>Explaining both similarity and difference, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both</p>

that argument that is one strategy.		<p>cause and effect. This needs to be throughout your essay and not just in a conclusion.</p> <p>Explain relevant and insightful connections within and across periods.</p> <p>Explain how documents support of contradict each other. This could include the strategy of grouping documents rather than having them in separate paragraphs.</p>
-------------------------------------	--	---

SCORING GUIDE – Target the Points!	10 Possible Points
Thesis - Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning. Does not simply restate the prompt.	1
Historical Context - Describes a broader historical context relevant to the prompt. Is not just a brief mention. Shoot for 2-3 sentences PLUS a linkage statement explain how the context relates to the topic of the essay. Do not support thesis in your contextualization.	1
Uses the content of at least two documents to address the topic of the prompt. This is the description step (Describing two documents and explaining how they relate to the topic of the essay)	1
Supports an argument in response to the prompt using two documents. This is an extension of your description. It can be covered with step 3 Therefore statement	1
Supports an argument in response to the prompt using at least four documents. If you complete steps 1 & 2 of your document strategy for at least 4 documents you can earn this point.	1
For one document, explains how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument. Don't forget to close the loop! This is step 2 of your 3-step strategy.	1
For a second document, explains how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument. Don't forget to close the loop! This is step 2 of your 3-step strategy.	1
Uses at least one additional piece of the specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt. This cannot just be a brief mention. Explain the evidence AND close the loop!	1
Uses a second additional piece of the specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument about the prompt. Explain the evidence AND close the loop!	1

Template designed by Tamarah Medlin and adapted for APUSH by Rebecca Richardson.

Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question. If you make insightful connections as you write, be sure to drop them in!

1