

Parts of a DBQ Essay

Introduction Paragraph: This paragraph should grab your reader's attention, give background information about your topic and include your thesis statement which answers the Document Based Question (DBQ).

- Begin with a grabber statement to capture the reader's attention (1 sentence).
 - Grabber Techniques:
 - i. Question – ask a question related to the topic to draw the reader in
 - ii. Fact – use an ***interesting*** fact or statistic about the topic
 - iii. Definition – define a term related to the essay
- Provide background information about the topic (2-3 sentences).
 - Explain the basics of the topic
 - Make sure that ***any*** reader could read and understand your essay even if they don't have any knowledge about the historical event
- The final sentence of your introductory paragraph should always be a thesis sentence.
 - Answers the question
 - Picks ***one*** clear side to argue
 - Lists the topics of your body paragraphs

Body Paragraphs: Each of your body paragraphs will include one argument that supports your thesis (one reason your thesis is true) supported by three specific pieces of evidence from the body paragraphs.

- Begin each body paragraph with an argument that supports your thesis statement. This is your topic sentence.
- Include ***three*** specific pieces of evidence for the documents
 - **Cite** the documents the evidence came from
 - **Explain** how the evidence relates to the topic sentence
 - **Check** that your evidence is specific and detailed
- Conclude each body paragraph with a sentence that summarizes the paragraph and transitions into the next body paragraph.

Conclusion Paragraph: This paragraph should restate your thesis and main ideas and leave your reader with a statement of historical significance.

- Restate your thesis statement but do NOT list body paragraph topics.
- Rephrase each of the three arguments you made in your three body paragraphs.
- End with a statement of historical significance.
 - Explains the significance or importance of the topic to history as a whole.