

AP U.S. HISTORY: GENERIC RUBRIC FOR DBQ AND FRQ RESPONSES

The list of characteristics following the grades apply to both free response essays and DBQ's and indicate what student essays need to contain in order to score in a particular category. In addition, DBQ essays must incorporate document analysis and substantial information that is not contained in the documents (outside information).

8-9

- Strong, well developed thesis which clearly addresses the question; deals with the most significant issues and trends relevant to the question and the time period
- Abundant, accurate specifics; may contain insignificant errors
- Depending on what is called for, demonstrates well reasoned analysis of relationship of events and people, cause and effect, continuity and change
- Covers all areas of the prompt in approximate proportion to their importance (Extremely good papers need not be totally balanced)
- Effective organization and clear language

DBQ: Sophisticated use of a substantial number of documents; substantial relevant outside information; chronologically coherent

5-7

- Has a valid thesis; deals with relatively significant issues and trends
- Some accurate specific information relevant to the thesis and question
- Analyzes information: uses data to support opinions and conclusions; recognizes historical causation, change, and continuity
- Adequately addresses all areas of prompt; may lack balance
- May contain a few errors, usually not major
- Adequately organizes; generally clear language; may contain some minor grammatical errors

DBQ: Use of some documents and some relevant outside information

2-4

- Thesis may be absent, limited, confused, or poorly developed; may take a very general approach to the topic, failing to focus on the question; position may be vague or unclear
- Superficial or descriptive data which is limited in depth and/or quantity
- Limited understanding of the question; may be largely descriptive and narrative
- Adequately covers most areas of the prompt; may ignore some tasks
- May contain major errors
- Demonstrates weak organization and writing skills which may interfere with comprehension

DBQ: Misinterprets, briefly cites, or simply quotes documents; little outside information, or information which is inaccurate or irrelevant

0-1

- Usually has no discernible thesis, contains a thesis that does not address the question, or simply restates the question
 - Superficial, inappropriate or erroneous information; or information limited to a small portion of the prompt
 - Analysis may be fallacious
 - May contain numerous errors, both major and minor
 - May cover only portions of the prompt; refers to the topic but does not address the prompt
 - Erratic organization; grammatical errors may frequently hinder comprehension
- DBQ: Poor, confused, or no use of documents; inappropriate or no outside information**

Conversion to numerical grades:

9	98
8	93
7	88
6	83
5	78
4	74
3	68
2	63
1	58

REMEMBER: You need:

- a strong strong thesis
- topic sentences for each supporting paragraph
- aim for 3 pieces of evidence in each paragraph
- a clincher sentence in each paragraph

AND ALSO REMEMBER: Your essay is considered a ROUGH draft, not a final refined essay.