

DBQ – Document-Based Questions

Lee

What it is: DBQs are document-based questions (or data-based questions, in some cases). Documents in the forms of articles, journals, graphs, etc. serve as the sources for your answers. Follow these instructions:

- 1) **Thesis.** This is the main idea of the documents, as restated by you in your own words. Your thesis should be both concise and relevant. *Your DBQ needs one thesis; you do not need a thesis for each document.*
- 2) **Analysis.** Analyze each document for the following:
 - a. **Purpose(s).** What purpose does the document have? Why was it produced? *This should be answered for each document, as each document may have a different purpose.*
 - b. **Audience(s).** Who is the intended audience? *This should be answered for each document, as each document may have a different audience.*
 - c. **Scientific and Societal Context.** How or why is the content of the document important for society? What implications does the content (research, study, etc.) have on science and/or society?
- 3) **Investigation.** Answer the specific questions provided in the assignment regarding the documents. You must refer to the documents (by title, letter, or number), as they are your sources. It is wise to include:
 - a. **Evidence.** Find and cite evidence from the document(s) to support and/or justify your answer.
 - b. **Defined terms.** When using a term from the document with which you are not familiar, include the definition.
- 4) **Document Summaries.** In *one short paragraph per document*, summarize the main findings or ideas of each article. Be sure to investigate and include and relevant connections between the documents. Avoid redundancy.

General Rubric. Points will vary by assignment, depending on specific factors.

Component	Well-Established, Clear, or Correct	Developing, Partially Correct, or Incomplete.	Missing, Incorrect, or Irrelevant
Thesis (1 required in total)	2	1	0
Analysis (1 for each document)			
Purpose (1 for each document)	2	1	0
Audience (1 for each document)	2	1	0
Scientific and Societal Context (1 for each document)	2	1	0
Investigation			
Points vary. 2 points per question	2	1	0
Document Summaries (1 per document)			
Points vary. 2 points per summary. Each document requires one short summary unless otherwise noted.	2	1	0
<i>Formatting and Submission: Incorrect formatting or submission will result in a loss of at least 25% of grade</i>			
Total			

Additional information:

- Must be typed using size 11 or 12 standard fonts (Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri)
- Must be double-spaced. Complete sentences for everything, always. Typical length is 3+ pages.
- Must include name, date, class, and block at the top on the left
- DBQs are submitted electronically via TurnItIn.com by 11:59 PM of the due date.

Here's a formatting example, on the back. You may format your DBQ explicitly using headers such as those on the back.

Jimmy Exampleton
March 5, 2015
Chemistry Block 1
DBQ #2

Your formatting should be very similar to this. That is to say, you should have the sections clearly separated, the headings bolded, and all of it should be standard left-justified and double-spaced. Name, date, class & block, and DBQ# belong in the top left position, and only on the first page. This is not a running head.

Thesis

Example thesis: Carbohydrates are the most common and readily-available form of energy that we get from food, and some researchers have determined that excess carbohydrate consumption is the leading cause of obesity

Analysis of _____ Title of Document #1 or Document A _____

Purpose: (your responses)

Audience: (your responses)

Scientific and Societal Context: (your responses)

Analysis of _____ Title of Document #2 or Document B _____

Purpose: (your responses)

Audience: (your responses)

Scientific and Societal Context: (your responses) ...etc. Repeat the analysis (and purpose, audience, & science and societal context) for each document 1, 2, 3... (or A, B, C...)

Investigation

- 1) (your response to the first question in the assignment. The questions will be provided)
- 2) (your response to the second question in the assignment. The questions will be provided)
- 3) (your response to the third question in the assignment. The questions will be provided)
- 4) (your response to the fourth question in the assignment. The questions will be provided), etc. for all questions

Document Summaries

Title of Document #1/A: (Your one-paragraph summary of document #1/A goes here)

Title of Document #2/B: (Your one-paragraph summary of document #2/B goes here)

Title of Document #3/C: (Your one-paragraph summary of document #3/C goes here)