

## How to Teach Your Students the DBQ

### **Prior to DBQ time:**

Work with students on writing a general 5-paragraph essay. Talk about outlining. Have them write a few essays as practice. Additionally, you should be looking at primary sources (2-3 a week) so they get used to looking at these sources (photographs, excerpts, etc.).

1. Give students the first page of the DBQ so they will have the question. The first step is to take 2-3 minutes and brainstorm what they know about the topic. (i.e. exploration, the revolution, etc)
  - a. After individual brainstorming, have them do a Pair-Share.
  - b. Now they have a list of things they already know!
  - c. THIS IS THE BACKGROUND BALLET!
2. Look at the question on the front page. Have students write an answer to the question—1 or 2 sentences.
  - a. Consider having students share some of their hypotheses with the class.
  - b. THIS IS THE HYPOTHESIS HULA!
3. Start outlining. Do the 4-Square outline and have students turn their hypothesis into one topic sentence that will be in the opening paragraph. They write their topic sentence in the top lefthand box. Below, they need to write 3 things that act as evidence of their answer. Put each of those in one of the three other boxes!
  - a. In each square write more details to support their evidence.
  - b. THIS IS THE *start* OF THE LAYOUT LINEDANCE
4. Have students open their DBQ packet and start looking through the documents.
  - a. Address the scaffolding questions. Students CAN answer them, but they don't have to! There is no need to write down the answers. The questions are there only to help them understand the document.
  - b. Use the documents as evidence and add them to the essay outline.
  - c. This is the DOCUMENT ANALYSIS DISCO!
5. Finish laying out the essay outline
  - a. Make sure there is at least one document in each of the last 3 boxes. Use a "Majority" of the documents provided in the packet somewhere in the essay.
  - b. Remember, the documents should SUPPORT the thesis. They are not the main topic of the paragraph.
  - c. Finish THE LAYOUT LINEDANCE!
6. Now we write!
  - a. This is the WRITING WALTZ!

The first time you do one, consider letting students use their notes in outlining AND writing. Remember, this is really a content 5-paragraph essay. The documents are simply an additional piece of what they can write.