

The ABC's of DBQs

1. **Annotate** the prompt by identifying key words and phrases. These words and phrases will help you figure out the Limited Topic, and then you must use them in your essay!
2. **Bullet Points:** Turn each of the bullet points into questions and then determine the Limited Topic. Each bullet point will most likely become a body paragraph.
3. **Connect** details from the documents to your prior knowledge (you should first analyze each document while taking notes on how you could use each one in your essay).
4. **Develop** your Main Points (these represent your body paragraphs). Make sure you decide NOW how you are going to incorporate the documents and your prior knowledge into your essay.
5. **$E = mc^2$** : Write your thesis statement using the following formula:
 Thesis = Limited Topic + your Main Points
6. **Focus on Content:** Quickly outline Introduction Paragraph, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusion Paragraph using your Schaffer 7 Steps!
7. **Get Writing!** Write your essay using transitions such as the following:

Concrete Detail Sentence Starters/Transitions	Commentary Sentence Starters/Transitions
<p style="text-align: center;">CD #1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, • First, the author says... • In the story, • Document A shows... <p style="text-align: center;">CD #2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another example is... • The author also says... • Secondly, • Document B shows... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furthermore, • This shows that... • In addition... • Moreover, • Therefore,

8. **Have You Proofread?** Go back and use your Checklist to revise and edit.

Post-Writing Checklist



1. Have you sufficiently developed all parts of the prompt (the bullet points)?
2. Does your essay contain a properly placed and clear thesis statement? Does your response maintain a consistent focus?
3. Have you included supporting ideas and evidence for each of your main ideas?
4. Have you included relevant information from at least two of the included documents?
5. Have you cited sources correctly when you paraphrased or quoted documents?
6. Have you included an explanation of the reasoning you used in your response?
7. Is the information in your response factually correct?
8. Have you provided a clear beginning, middle, and end to your essay?
9. Have you varied your word choice and used the most effective words for your purpose and audience?
10. Have you varied the structure, length and types of sentences?
11. Are your spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, sentence formation and usage correct?
12. Have you included effective transitions among sentences, paragraphs and ideas?