

Introduction

- Background Info/ Prior Knowledge (Set the stage; time frame, place, historical context)
- Thesis (Address the task- what will your essay be about?)

Body Paragraphs

- Topic Sentence
- Background info
- Introduce Evidence (**For a DBQ**, cite documents used by putting them in parenthesis after paraphrasing the evidence from the doc, i.e. *The British government hoped to put an end to any future uprising by placing India under the direct rule of the British government* (Document 1).
- Analyze Evidence (what does this evidence mean, how does it relate/prove the point you are trying to make).
- Connect to thesis

For a DBQ, make sure to include at least 2 pieces of outside information in each body paragraph. Underline that outside information to make sure you have included it.

Conclusion

- Rephrase thesis
- Restate major points

The Do's

- Fully address the task. Make sure to read it carefully. Many tasks ask you to do more than one thing in your essay
- Always take a few minutes to outline or organize your essay, does not have to be fancy, but plan out your essay
- Do discuss each of your points equally.
- Reread/look over your essay after you are done writing.
- Be as specific as possible when you include historical information.
- Check that your introduction agrees with the conclusion
- Focus on 1-2 ideas per paragraph
- Treat each body paragraph as a mini essay
- Be kind to the essay graders; Write legibly.
- **For DBQ Essays Specifically**
 - Read, answer, and analyze each of the documents. Examine the source or point of view
 - Determine the order in which you will use the document. Group them together.
 - Make sure you use the correct # of documents!
 - Use outside information to support and give context to your documents. Underline the outside information so you know you've included it.
 - Explain and ANALYZE the documents!

The Don'ts

- Do not write your own opinion, these are expository essays (meaning factual, historical evidence based). No first person pronouns
- Do not be vague, try and be specific as possible, don't refer to information as "things", "this time", "people", etc.
- Do not go off on tangents
- Do not start the conclusion with "In conclusion"
- **For DBQ Essays Specifically**
 - Do not forget to analyze the documents
 - Do not quote from the documents
 - Do not use any documents in the Introduction or conclusion