

DBQ Checklist
AP US History

☐ **Introduction Paragraph**

☐ **Contextualization:**

- ☐ Do you provide a specific event in the first 2-3 sentences of your introduction?
 - ☐ Is the provided historical information effective in explaining the main topic of your thesis?
- ☐ Do you have a statement that directly leads/connects to your thesis statement?

☐ **Thesis Statement: “Yes, but”**

- ☐ Does it start with a dependent clause that presents an alternative answer to the question?
- ☐ Does it have a main clause that directly answers the question?
- ☐ Does it use some of the keywords/phrases of the question?
- ☐ Does the main clause contain the word because (or an equivalent)?
- ☐ Is the word because followed by two reasons (not examples) supporting the main clause?
- ☐ Did you incorporate complexity:
 - ☐ Causation (two distinctly different causations related to answering the prompt)
 - ☐ Continuity AND Change
 - ☐ Comparison and Contrast

☐ **Body Paragraphs and Argument Development/Sophistication**

- ☐ Does your **first** body paragraph support the **SUBORDINATE** clause of your thesis statement?
- ☐ Does your **second** body paragraph start with a transition phrase that tells the reader you are switching arguments?
- ☐ Do your body paragraphs end with a concluding statement that 1) uses some of the key language of the question and 2) links back to the main clause of the thesis?

☐ **Outside Evidence (any body paragraph, but I recommend getting it done sooner rather than later)**

- ☐ Did you include a specific piece of historical evidence that has no connection to the documents provided?
- ☐ Did you use a transitional statement to introduce the outside evidence? “Additionally, Furthermore, etc.”
- ☐ Did you **SHOW** how the outside evidence supports your thesis statement? (This shows, demonstrates, etc.)

☐ **HAPP Analyses (preferably all body paragraphs...)**

- ☐ Did you include **at least 2** HAPP analyses?
 - ☐ Were you able to get 4 HAPP analyses?
- ☐ Did your HAPPs include the following three statements (if not, jot down which documents they did not apply to):
 - ☐ **Sentence 1:** Did you accurately describe, rather than simply quote, the content of the document?
 - ☐ MAIN IDEA of the DOCUMENT
 - ☐ Author of the document
 - ☐ DOC TAG [Doc 1]
 - ☐ Sentence 2: Historical Contextualization: Specific historical information that contextualizes the document.
 - ☐ Sentence 3: Explanation statement that shows the reader how this document/historical context supports your thesis statement.

☐ **Did you AVOID...**

- ☐ Writing “Document 1 says...”
- ☐ QUOTING THE DOCUMENTS?

☐ **Synthesis**

- ☐ Does your paper end with **TWO** sentences connecting the MAIN topic to another relevant time period in US History?
 - ☐ Did you identify a specific historical event or contemporary event relevant to your preferred argument?
 - ☐ Does your event follow the 20-year rule for synthesis?
 - ☐ Did you take a sentence to adequately explain the connection between your main topic and the relevant example of synthesis?

What is one area where you can improve in your next essay? Add your answer below.