

The template strategy is designed to assist students in becoming aware of and comfortable with three expectations of document analysis for a DBQ response. The goal is to start simply and then help the student progress toward sophistication. Not all students will reach sophistication by the end of the course, and that is okay. The DBQ essay rubric does not award points for sophistication.

**DBQ Three-Step+ Template
(SIMPLE)**

Step 1: Describe and relate to topic

Doc. # ___ shows/discusses...

This relates to the topic of _____ because...

Step 2: HIPP (choose one of the HIPP and close loop; preferably HS or POV – you only need to do this for three docs... but I recommend four... remember to choose the docs you understand best!)

Historical Situation:

The historical situation of doc. # ___ was...

POV or Purpose of author/artist regarding the topic:

The author's point of view/purpose is _____.

This is evident because... (explain)

(choose intended audience only as last resort)

How the document supports your argument:

This is relevant to the argument that... (briefly identify) because...
(explain)

OR - This is significant because... (explain relevance)

Step 3: Final closure

Therefore, doc. 1 supports the argument that _____ because...

**DBQ Three-Step+ Template
(COMPLEX)**

Document # ___ Paragraph

Use the 3-step strategy in your planning. Do not forget to close the loop!
Hint: Begin your paragraph by referencing your X or Y argument... whichever one you will be using this document for. (topic sentence)

Remember it is okay to introduce a different argument if the document does not support yours. Or you can state that a document contradicts your argument (alternate view)

Topic Sentence:

Is this topic similar or different from a topic in another era?
(strategy for complexity)

Topic of the document:
(make sure you clearly understand the main topic or topics of the doc.)

Step 1: Describe and relate to topic

Doc. # ___ shows/discusses...

This relates to the topic of _____ because...

Step 2: HIPP (choose one of the HIPP and close loop; preferably HS or POV – you only need to do this for three docs... but I recommend four... remember to choose the docs you understand best!)

Historical Situation:
The historical situation of doc. # ___ was...

POV or Purpose of author/artist regarding the topic:
The author's point of view/purpose is _____.
This is evident because... (explain)

(choose intended audience only as last resort)

How the document supports your argument:
This is relevant to the argument that... (briefly identify) because... (explain)
OR - This is significant because... (explain relevance)

Step 3: Final closure

Therefore, doc. 1 supports the argument that _____ because...

Does the document connect to another? (similar, different, corroborate, contradict)
(complexity strategy)

(It is okay to group documents, but it is not necessary. If you do group them, explain why you are grouping them)

Is there an additional piece of evidence that also supports or complements this argument? (EBD: identify and explain the piece of evidence & close the loop!)

After students become comfortable with the steps, they can personalize the template to reflect their preferred lingo, order, style.

Beginning with a topic sentence can reinforce the argumentation. The items in pink are to encourage added complexity. Green is to encourage incorporation of specific evidence beyond the documents.