

US I Honors DBQ rubric

Category	Highly Effective(5)	Effective (4.5)	Needs Improvement(3)
Thesis/Claim	Responds to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis that establishes a strong historical line of reasoning.	Responds to the prompt with a thesis, but reasoning may lack historical clarity or depth.	The thesis is vague, restates the prompt, or does not present a defensible argument.
Contextualization	Provides a well-developed historical context relevant to the prompt, showing insightful connections and a fully developed understanding of the topic within the historical period.	Provides relevant historical context but lacks depth or specificity. Does not fully connect the topic to the historical period.	Context is too vague, broad, or unrelated to the prompt.
Evidence from Documents	The response must accurately describe, rather than simply quote, the content from at least 3 documents to address the topic of the prompt. In addition, the response must use the content of the documents to support an argument in response to the prompt.	Quotes the content of at least 3 documents to address the topic of the prompt. Lacks connections to the argument.	One or more documents are misinterpreted & do not count toward the total number of documents used.
Formatting and Organization	The essay includes an appropriate heading and is organized into multiple paragraphs.	The essay is missing some heading elements and is organized into multiple paragraphs.	The essay does not have an appropriate heading, and the organization could be improved to enhance readability.