What is a DBQ Essay?

• A DBQ essay is a written assignment requiring you to use documents to discuss a given thesis statement.

• Documents are a source of information.

• Documents can be primary or secondary sources of information.
Primary Sources

• Primary sources are original documents from a particular time in the past, such as letters, photographs, and newspaper articles.

• Other primary sources include:
  • Illustrations
  • Cartoons
  • Posters
  • Maps
  • Political Documents such as the Constitution
Secondary Sources

• Secondary sources are documents that are not from the era that they cover.

• Examples of secondary sources include:
  • Graphs and Graphic Organizers that display historical data.
  • Articles based on facts taken from primary sources.
Ready to Write

• In a DBQ Essay you will be given information in two forms. The first form of information is the **Historical Context**, the second form of information is the **TASK**.
Tasks

• The tasks are the questions you are to answer in the essay. It is from the TASK you develop your THESIS.
Thesis Statement

• A thesis statement provides the main argument of the essay. The point you are trying to make
Historical context

• This is background information that use in your introduction.
Introduction

• Historical Context
• Thesis Statement
Thesis Statement

• Descriptive thesis – “Although the Radical Republicans were initially successful in transforming the South during the period of Reconstruction, in the long run, by 1900, they failed to change the region economically, politically, and socially.”

• Analytical thesis - Although the Radical Republicans were initially successful in transforming the South during the period of Reconstruction, in the long run, by 1900, they failed to change the region economically, politically, and socially because of violence and the passage of laws by southern states that re-established white supremacy.
Historical Context

• Since the birth of the United States, African-Americans were enslaved in the American South. During the mid-1800s many people known as abolitionists tried to bring an end to slavery. Their actions helped bring about the Civil War between Northern states and Southern slaveholding states. After the North was victorious and the Union saved, people in government known as Radical Republicans tried to “reconstruct” the south and expand the rights of African-Americans. Although the Radical Republicans were initially successful in transforming the South during the period of Reconstruction, in the long run, by 1900, they failed to change the region economically, politically, and socially.
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<th>Document</th>
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<th>Social Changes</th>
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<td>What outside information can you include that is not included in the documents.</td>
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