

moment longer to write, but it could mean the difference between a 7 and a 5.

While the most important part of any AP essay (LEQ or DBQ) is the thesis, 5 of the 7 possible points of the DBQ rubric are determined by the quality of your body paragraphs. To make certain that you score the points you need, always ask the following questions:

- Have you supported your thesis with six of the documents explicitly, individually, and correctly? —**2 points**
- Have you critically analyzed the source in at least three of the documents? —**1 point**
- Have you supported your thesis with at least one piece of specific evidence from outside the documents? —**1 point**
- Have you used your evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify your argument? —**1 point**

Guided Practice: Analyzing Evidence for the DBQ

Directions: For the following exercise, follow the process outlined in the preceding steps.

Step 1: Identify the tasks and terms

Step 2: Read and analyze the documents and brainstorm outside evidence (make notes in the margins)

Step 3: Develop a thesis and categories of evidence, and then outline your argument (grouping documents and outside evidence within your categories)

Step 4: Write an opening paragraph.

Then, using your outline as a guide, write three body paragraphs, remembering that each time you introduce a new document or piece of specific evidence, you must explicitly state why it matters to your thesis. Critically analyze the source wherever you can, and, for each document, develop the habit of combining a contextual citation with a sentence-ending parenthetical citation.