APUSH DBQ STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

**Pre-Writing:**

***Step 1:*** Read and understand prompt (language, date range, topics, Historical Thinking Skill, etc.)

***Step 2:***Brainstorm information about prompt before looking at documents

***Step 3:***Read documents and analyze them---HIPP

***Step 4:***Categorize documents to create and prove thesis arguments based on themes (Economic, Political, Social, etc.)

**Introductory Paragraph:**

***Step 5:*** Add **CONTEXTUALIZATION** before thesis in intro paragraph (3-4 sentences minimum)…chronological narrative, specific to topic in prompt, leading up to period of time in question

***Step 6:*** Construct thesis based on document evidence using formula…make sure you respond to all parts of prompt…make sure your thesis has Categories of Analysis (sub-topics based on themes)

THESIS FORMULA: X. However, A, B, C. Therefore, Y.

* X (Counterargument)
* However, A, B, C. (Thesis…Argument with Themes/Categories of Analysis)
* Therefore, Y. (Your position, in a general sense, on the prompt…direct response to prompt)

**Body Paragraphs:**

***Step 7: Body Paragraph #1…The Counterargument***

You must write a counterargument paragraph that corresponds to the documents referenced in the counterargument portion of the thesis. This paragraph should…

* Give background **CONTEXTUALIZATION** to set the scene
* Introduce each document…(For example, George Washington, in his *Farewell Address*, states that…)
* Integrate content analysis of the document(s)…summarize document in detail
* Integrate at least one piece of extended analysis…HIPP
* Connect document back to thesis (i.e. This is an example of…, This proves that… This exemplifies…)
* \*\*\*Integrate evidence from the time period that is not in documents…**OUTSIDE EVIDENCE**

***Step 8:* *Body Paragraphs #2, 3, 4, etc…The Argument***

Begin to write the argument portion of the essay remembering to break into paragraphs based on thesis arguments and document evidence categories. Each paragraph should…

* Give background **CONTEXTUALIZATION** to set the scene
* Introduce each document…( For example, George Washington, in his *Farewell Address*, states that…)
* Integrate content analysis of the document(s)…summarize document in detail
* Integrate at least one piece of extended analysis…HIPP
* Connect document back to thesis (i.e. This is an example of…, This proves that…, This exemplifies…)
* \*\*\*Integrate evidence from the time period that is not in documents…**OUTSIDE EVIDENCE**

**Conclusion: Lots of choices on how to bring your essay to an end…**

**Step 9:**

* **DOING NOTHING IS AN OPTION, PARTICLARLY IF ALL YOU ARE GOING TO DO IS RESTATE THE THESIS. ON THE EXAM YOUR TIME WOULD BE BETER SPENT MOVING ON TO THE LEQ**

**Analysis and Reasoning:**

*Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question. A response may demonstrate a complex understanding in a variety of ways, such as:*

*• Explaining nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables*

*• Explaining both similarity and difference, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both cause and effect*

*•* ***Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across periods***

*• Confirming the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes*

*• Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence*

*This understanding must be part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference.*

\*\*\***Concluding paragraph attempts to synthesize everything**…connect topic to other historical periods that may have similarities or other geographical areas during the same time period that may have similar events going on (e.g. American Revolution *and* French Revolution; early attempts at women’s rights *and* Seneca Falls Convention *and* 1960s Feminist Movement; Transcendentalism *and* 1960s Counterculture; Antebellum Reform *and* Progressive Era; World War I *and* World War II; Vietnam War *and* War in Afghanistan; Jim Crow Era *and* Civil Rights Movement)…**\*\*\*make sure you provide specific examples that you are comparing between the time periods\*\*\***

**Other Tips:**

* **Specifically describe images, cartoons, charts, graphs, etc.!!!!**
* Cite document parenthetically at the end of each sentence that refers to said document (Doc 1)
* Address ALL parts of prompt not only in counterargument and thesis, but in body paragraphs
* Must do more than restate the prompt in thesis
* DO NOT quote documents
* Remember, this is essentially an essay that you then integrate document evidence into to prove your thesis…this is not merely a list of documents to summarize!

