

Rubric for the DBQ Essay: Scoring Range 4 - 1.

The 4 essay:

- features an introductory paragraph that includes a restatement of the question, a definition of terms (where appropriate), a thesis, and a roadmap that introduces the analytical categories to be developed
- is clearly organized with body paragraphs arranged in the order of the roadmap
- contains a clear baby thesis for each body paragraph
- incorporates a reasonable number of the documents and incorporates document citation
- accurately interprets documents
- demonstrates analytical skills such as seeing close detail, synthesis, finding inconsistencies, questioning author bias, and making judgments
- provides an argument or warrant in each body paragraph that addresses the baby thesis
- concludes with a paragraph that clinches argument with a succinct summary and/or fresh wrinkle
- is well-written with few or no errors in sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization

The 3 essay:

- features an introductory paragraph that includes a restatement of the question, a definition of terms (where appropriate), a thesis, and a roadmap that introduces the analytical categories to be developed
- is clearly organized with body paragraphs arranged in the order of the roadmap
- contains clear baby sentences for each body paragraph
- incorporates a reasonable number of the documents but may not always include citation
- accurately interprets most but not all documents cited
- contains clear evidence of document analysis including an argument that addresses the baby thesis
- concludes with a paragraph that restates thesis and may summarize argument
- is quite well-written but includes some errors in grammar and spelling

The 2 essay:

- addresses the question but lacks some focus
- has a functional introductory paragraph containing a stated or recognizable thesis and a roadmap
- has a recognizable organization with main ideas divided into paragraphs; body paragraphs may not be in the same order as the roadmap
- contains reference to several documents but there could easily be more
- contains some effort at document analysis
- often lacks a warrant; does not clearly explain how evidence answers the question
- has some sort of concluding paragraph. May be unnecessarily repetitive
- is generally written with complete sentences, but contains too many errors in verb tense, agreement, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization

The 1 essay:

- is inadequate in addressing or identifying the question
- is often lacking a clear thesis, stated or implied
- has unclear organization. This may include no roadmap, or body paragraphs that do not follow in an order suggested by the roadmap
- makes reference to few documents. Citations are missing. Documents are often misunderstood.
- the warrant in each body paragraph is missing
- contains serious errors in sentence structure and mechanics