

## **AP U.S. HISTORY: GENERIC RUBRIC FOR DBQ AND FRQ RESPONSES**

The list of characteristics following the grades apply to both free response essays and DBQ's and indicate what student essays need to contain in order to score in a particular category. In addition, DBQ essays must incorporate document analysis and substantial information that is not contained in the documents (outside information).

8-9

- Strong, well developed thesis which clearly addresses the question; deals with the most significant issues and trends relevant to the question and the time period
- Abundant, accurate specifics; may contain insignificant errors
- Depending on what is called for, demonstrates well reasoned analysis of relationship of events and people, cause and effect, continuity and change
- Covers all areas of the prompt in approximate proportion to their importance (Extremely good papers need not be totally balanced)
- Effective organization and clear language

**DBQ: Sophisticated use of a substantial number of documents; substantial relevant outside information; chronologically coherent**

5-7

- Has a valid thesis; deals with relatively significant issues and trends
- Some accurate specific information relevant to the thesis and question
- Analyzes information: uses data to support opinions and conclusions; recognizes historical causation, change, and continuity
- Adequately addresses all areas of prompt; may lack balance
- May contain a few errors, usually not major
- Adequately organizes; generally clear language; may contain some minor grammatical errors

**DBQ: Use of some documents and some relevant outside information**

2-4

- Thesis may be absent, limited, confused, or poorly developed; may take a very general approach to the topic, failing to focus on the question; position may be vague or unclear
- Superficial or descriptive data which is limited in depth and/or quantity
- Limited understanding of the question; may be largely descriptive and narrative
- Adequately covers most areas of the prompt; may ignore some tasks
- May contain major errors
- Demonstrates weak organization and writing skills which may interfere with comprehension

**DBQ: Misinterprets, briefly cites, or simply quotes documents; little outside information, or information which is inaccurate or irrelevant**

0-1

- Usually has no discernible thesis, contains a thesis that does not address the question, or simply restates the question
    - Superficial, inappropriate or erroneous information; or information limited to a small portion of the prompt
  - Analysis may be fallacious
  - May contain numerous errors, both major and minor
  - May cover only portions of the prompt; refers to the topic but does not address the prompt
  - Erratic organization; grammatical errors may frequently hinder comprehension
- DBQ: Poor, confused, or no use of documents; inappropriate or no outside information**

### **Conversion to numerical grades:**

9	98
8	93
7	88
6	83
5	78
4	74
3	68
2	63
1	58

**REMEMBER:** You need:

- a strong strong thesis
- topic sentences for each supporting paragraph
- aim for 3 pieces of evidence in each paragraph
- a clincher sentence in each paragraph

**AND ALSO REMEMBER:** Your essay is considered a ROUGH draft, not a final refined essay.