



**Social Studies
School Service**

www.socialstudies.com

Downloadable Reproducible eBooks *Sample Pages*

These sample pages from this eBook are provided for evaluation purposes. The entire eBook is available for purchase at

www.socialstudies.com or www.writingco.com.

To browse more eBook titles, visit

<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebooks.html>

To learn more about eBooks, visit our help page at

<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebookshelp.html>

For questions, please e-mail eBooks@socialstudies.com

To learn about new eBook and print titles, professional development resources, and catalogs in the mail, sign up for our monthly e-mail newsletter at

<http://socialstudies.com/newsletter/>

*Copyright notice: Copying of the book or its parts for resale is prohibited.
Additional restrictions may be set by the publisher.*

WRITING A DBQ: AP* U.S. History

Jim Tomlin, Writer

Dr. Aaron Willis, Project Editor
Kerry Gordonson, Editor
Christina Trejo, Editorial Assistant
Justin Coffey, Editorial Assistant

Social Studies School Service
10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802
Culver City, CA 90232

<http://socialstudies.com>
access@socialstudies.com
(800) 421-4246

© 2007 Social Studies School Service

10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802
Culver City, CA 90232
United States of America

(310) 839-2436
(800) 421-4246

Fax: (800) 944-5432
Fax: (310) 839-2249

<http://socialstudies.com>
access@socialstudies.com

Permission is granted to reproduce individual worksheets for classroom use only.
Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 1-56004-285-0

Product Code: ZP905

*AP and Advanced Placement Program are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination board, which was not involved in the production of and does not endorse this product.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	iv
Lecture Notes	S1
Student Handouts	H1
<u>Culminating Activities</u>	
Assessment Guidelines.....	1
Rubric Check Sheet.....	2

INTRODUCTION

Created by an experienced AP U.S. History teacher and AP test grader, this PowerPoint® presentation shows students a step-by-step method for formulating and composing a well-written response to the AP U.S. History DBQ. The first part of the presentation lays out a method for breaking down the process of answering the question into stages: identifying key terms and date parameters, constructing a database, analyzing the documents, and developing a strong thesis. Each of the next three sections analyzes a sample College Board-style DBQ, demonstrating how to apply the method learned in the first part of the presentation and also offering tips on interpreting the documents.

This binder contains a printout of each slide from the presentation. It also includes reproducible student handouts: an outline version of the presentation that they can use for taking notes, a rubric checklist, and guidelines for assessing their DBQ essays.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jim Tomlin has spent 41 years in the classroom, having taught for the last 36 years at Corona del Mar High School in Newport Beach, California. Since 1992 Jim has been an AP U.S. History instructor. Over the past 15 years, he has seen the AP U.S. History program at his school grow from 22 students to 126. Jim has been an active and endorsed College Board presenter since 1998, conducting both weekend and weeklong workshop sessions. He has been an AP exam reader since 1997 and has written exam questions for the College Board.



**WRITING A DBQ:
AP* U.S. History**

What Is a DBQ?

- An essay question that asks you to take a position on an issue that has several possible answers
- No “right” or “correct” response
- You must craft a thesis based on your own knowledge and your interpretation of the evidence presented

2

A DBQ is an essay question that asks you to take a position on an issue that has several possible answers. There is no “right” or “correct” response. The question is designed to give you the opportunity to craft and defend a thesis based upon your knowledge and your interpretation of the evidence presented to you in the primary sources and other documents. Imagine yourself as the historian who first heard the Kennedy tapes, found a long-lost letter from Frederick Douglass, interviewed Lyndon Johnson in 1970, or ran an original computer data analysis of poverty in 1900. You have these pieces of evidence. What do they mean and how do they fit with what you already know?

DBQ Documents

- Charts, graphs, and maps
- Newspaper articles/editorials
- Speeches
- Letters
- Diaries
- Laws
- Treaties
- Executive orders
- Editorial cartoons

3

The documents presented in a DBQ may include any of the items listed here.

Prompt Analysis Format

4

This next series of slides will lay out a nine-step method for answering a DBQ.

The Question

Read the question carefully,
then think about the following:

- What is the essence of the question?
- Is it a yes/no, “to what extent,” or “compare and contrast” question?
- Does it have more than one part?
- Are there bullets provided?
- Is there a choice of responses?

5

First, read the question carefully and try to determine the essence of the question. For example, what type of question is it: yes/no, “to what extent,” or compare/contrast? What judgment does it ask you to make? Does it have more than one part, and therefore more than one question that needs to be answered? Does it provide bullets to offer you some direction? Does it offer a choice of responses?

Most questions require you to analyze relationships (for example, the political implications of an economic issue), common themes in different time periods (for example, the concept of “national interest” in foreign policy), or degree (for example, “To what extent and in what ways do the views about John Brown expressed in the documents illustrate changing North-South relations between 1859 and 1863?”). Questions of the last type that ask “to what extent” are designed to force students to give an opinion. Try to think of these “degree” questions as asking “On a scale from 1 to 10...”

Sample DBQ: Multipart Question

Discuss the changing ideals of American womanhood between the American Revolution (1770s) and the outbreak of the Civil War.

What factors fostered the emergence of “republican motherhood” and the “cult of domesticity”?

Assess the extent to which these ideals influenced the lives of women during this period.

In your answer be sure to consider issues of race and class.

6

For example, this DBQ (from the 2006 AP exam) has several parts that need to be addressed. When presented with a question like this, identify and underline the various parts of the question, then decide how you will answer it. How many parts does this question have? (Note to teacher: Field responses from the class, then click to advance the animations, revealing the answers.) Ask yourself, “What must I cover in order to write a successful essay?” Be sure you fully understand what the question is asking you to do.

Make sure you respond to the question asked, rather than to one you wish had been asked. Also, don’t make up your own version of the question. These are common mistakes often committed by students who actually know something about the topic addressed in the question. The absolute rule here is to answer the question asked.