



THE DBQ PROJECT

DBQs in Literature: Getting to the Core of Argument Writing

Core Beliefs of The DBQ Project

1. All students need to learn how to think.
2. Learning to think requires practice.
3. Clear thinking is hard work.
4. Thinking is clarified by writing.
5. Thinking is for everyone.

History and Philosophy of the DBQ Project

Doing a Mini-Q: The DBQ Project 6-Step Method

1. The Hook
2. The Background Essay
3. Clarifying the Question and Pre-bucketing
4. Document Analysis
5. Bucketing
6. Writing: From Thrash Out to Essay

Elements of a Proficient Essay

- Introductory Paragraph
- Body Paragraph
- Conclusion

Norming Student Essays

- A look at sample papers

The DBQ Project Method

Step	Purpose	Teaching Tips / Notes
Hook Exercise		
Background Essay		
Understanding the Question and Pre-Bucketing		
Document Analysis		
Bucketing		
From Thrash Out to Writing		

Elements of a Proficient DBQ Essay

Essay Elements	Notes
<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Grabber- Context (brief and relevant plot summary or background)- Restatement of Question- Definition of Any Key Terms- Thesis with roadmap	
<p>Body Paragraphs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Baby Thesis- Evidence with Citations- Argument	
<p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Restatement of the Thesis- "Although" Statement- Main argument which trumps the "although" statement- Connection between literature and real world / relevance of question	

Self-Check or Peer Critique: Elements of a Proficient Essay

Rating				Elements
Exemplar	Proficient	Emerging	Missing	
_____	_____	_____	_____	Introduction
_____	_____	_____	_____	Grabber
_____	_____	_____	_____	Context (background or plot summary)
_____	_____	_____	_____	Restatements of the Question
_____	_____	_____	_____	Definition of Key Terms (if necessary)
_____	_____	_____	_____	Thesis (Claim) with roadmap
_____	_____	_____	_____	First Body Paragraph
_____	_____	_____	_____	Baby Thesis (Sub-Claim)
_____	_____	_____	_____	Evidence with citations
_____	_____	_____	_____	Argument
_____	_____	_____	_____	Second Body Paragraph
_____	_____	_____	_____	Baby Thesis (Sub-Claim)
_____	_____	_____	_____	Evidence with citations
_____	_____	_____	_____	Argument
_____	_____	_____	_____	Third Body Paragraph
_____	_____	_____	_____	Baby Thesis (Sub-Claim)
_____	_____	_____	_____	Evidence with citations
_____	_____	_____	_____	Argument
_____	_____	_____	_____	Conclusion
_____	_____	_____	_____	Restatement of thesis
_____	_____	_____	_____	“Wrinkle” or “Although” Statement