**AP World History DBQ Process**

If you finish before the class is ready to move on, you can try to do the next steps on your own.

**Prompt: How did the Mongols conquer such a large territory in such a short period of time?**

**Day 1: Pre-Write! (Do this on the back of the DBQ packet)**

* 1. Underline the parts of each document that help answer the question in the prompt.
	2. Write a SHORT note (shorter than a sentence!) next to each document to remind yourself how the document answers the prompt.
	3. Write any outside information that you remember next to any relevant documents. You need at least two specific pieces of outside evidence, so shoot for three. The outside evidence can go anywhere. And it can be about *anything that relates to your argument and the prompt.*
	4. For all documents create HAPPY notes about (**H**istorical context; **A**udience; **P**urpose; **P**oint of View; Why). How does that person’s perspective matter as you try to understand what they wrote? Do they have something to gain or hide? Do they know the whole story? What parts of the story might they be missing? You’ll write about this when you use evidence in your essay about their documents.
	5. Figure out which 2 or 3 categories you can sort the documents into. Make a list of docs you plan to use in each category. Remember that each document needs a category and that you need to use at least 2 documents in each category:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category 1:** | **Category 2:** | **Category 3:** |
| **Documents you’ll use in the body paragraph for this category:** | **Documents you’ll use in the body paragraph for this category:** | **Documents you’ll use in the body paragraph for this category:** |

Cross off the document when you have a home for it: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (Try to write about all of them, so that if you mess up on one, you’ll still get your points.)

* 1. Use your categories and the key words from the prompt to write your thesis statement. One way to structure your thesis might be **“The Mongols conquered such a large territory in such a short period of time because of [category 1], [category 2], and [category 3].”**
	2. Contextualization. This should be minimum three sentences. Describe what was leading up to the topic of your essay. (Like the Star Wars intro)

**Day 2: Write the DBQ! (On your lined paper)**

**Introduction Paragraph** (Remember to Indent!)

1. Write your contextualization. This should be minimum three sentences. Describe what was leading up to the topic of your essay. (Like the Star Wars intro)
2. After your contextualization, write your thesis statement. (See letter F above!)

**Body Paragraph #1: (Remember to Indent!)**

1. Topic sentence that answers the prompt, using your first category. It should look something like this: **“One way that the Mongols conquered such a large territory was because of [category 1] (doc #’s \_\_\_, \_\_\_, & \_\_\_).”**
2. Evidence: Now start writing about the documents you put in this category, one at a time. Answer the prompt using the document. Write the main idea of the document, specific evidence from the document that answers the prompt, and an explanation of how it answers the prompt. (Don’t just re-write a quote! Find a quote that helps and then paraphrase it.)
3. If you have any outside information or HAPPY comments to include related to the document, include that work before you move on to the next document.
4. Follow the same process for each of the documents you’ve put in this category.
5. If you want to be sure to exceed, you can try to get the “Analysis: Essay Complexity & Quality” point. To earn this point, the College Board says you need to do one of the following things:
* Explain nuance by analyzing multiple variables
* Explain relevant and insightful connections within and across periods
* Confirm the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes
* **Qualify or modify an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence (seems easiest to me)**

Basically, add some more thought and analysis to the essay. Take it to the next level!

**Body Paragraph #2 (and maybe #3): (Remember to Indent!)**

Follow the same process, writing a new body paragraph for each category.

**Conclusion: (Remember to Indent!)**

Re-write your thesis statement, using different words than you used in the intro.



Pat yourself on the back! You finished!