

Pearson's DBQ Writing Structure Guide:

Context (3–4 sentences before time period of the prompt):

- Give a brief background on what was happening before the timeline of the prompt and make it relevant to the prompt itself
 - Do **not** reuse any of this info later in the essay.
 - Example: The U.S. was recovering from the Great Depression. FDR's New Deal aimed to bring economic relief, but unemployment remained high. Social structures were still racially and economically divided. Isolationist policies limited U.S. involvement in global conflicts.
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Thesis (1-2 sentences in “evaluate the extent” format):

- You can kind of restate the prompt. But make sure to add the information below in the same sentence
 - Give **two general ways** the theme changed or didn't, and **evaluate the extent** of the change.
 - Example: The U.S.'s involvement in WWII marked a major turning point in both economic and social structures, as it ended the Great Depression and opened new roles for women and minorities, though some inequalities remained.
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Document Analysis Structure (Use for EACH document):

Sentence 1 - Doc Description: Say what the doc is and what it's about. Cite the document in parenthesis. Do not quote.

- *Example:* The poster encourages women to join the workforce during the war (Document 2).

Sentence 2 - HIPP Analysis: Pick **one** — Historical Situation, Intended Audience, Purpose, or Point of View. Historical Situation is usually easiest. You can do Historical Situation every single

time if you want. Just make sure you're not reusing the same context from other Historical Situations or Context paragraph

- *Example:* The historical situation behind this document is the labor shortage caused by men leaving for war.

Sentence 3 - Support Sentence: Connect back to thesis with "This shows that..."

- *Example:* This shows that WWII expanded women's roles in the economy and created social change.

All together:

- The poster encourages women to join the workforce during the war (Document 2). The historical situation behind this document is the labor shortage caused by men leaving for war. This shows that WWII expanded women's roles in the economy and created social change.

Outside Evidence (3+ sentences):

- Use a specific example **not mentioned in the docs**
- Connect it clearly back to the thesis. You can structure it like how you structure the document analysis above.
- *Example:* The G.I. Bill gave returning veterans education and housing support. This helped create a larger middle class and boost the economy after the war. It shows how government policy after WWII helped restructure economic life.

Final Advice. :

- Don't worry about the 7th point. 5-6 points on DBQ is enough to be on track for a 5. But you can get it
- Write like a 4th grader. Topic sentences/conclusions are a waste of time. It's a history test not an english test so it doesn't matter how poorly you write.
- Each document analysis should be structured: Description → one HIPPA letter → "This shows that..."
- **Rewrite a new thesis at the end of the essay. If not earned at the beginning, it can be earned when written at the end.**