Task Verbs Used in Free-Response Questions and Project

The following **task verbs** are commonly used in the free-response questions and project:

Cite: Provide information about a source, such as source type, title, date, and/or author. For DBQ, citation of source letter is sufficient.

Compare: Provide a description or explanation of similarities and/or differences.

Define a research question: Identify a topic of interest, guiding questions about that topic, and relevant sources for analysis to deepen understanding of identified topic.

Describe: Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic.

Develop an argument: Formulate a claim and support it with evidence.

Draw a conclusion: Use available information to formulate an accurate statement that demonstrates understanding based on evidence.

Evaluate: Judge or determine the significance or importance of information or the quality or accuracy of a claim.

Explain: Provide information about how or why a relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome occurs, using evidence and/or reasoning. "Explain how" typically requires analyzing the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome, whereas "explain why" typically requires analysis of motivations or reasons for the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome.

Identify: Indicate or provide information about a specified topic, without elaboration or explanation.

Support an argument: Provide specific examples and explain how they support a claim.

Synthesize: Combine different perspectives from sources to develop or support a coherent position.