

Analysis

• Learning Goal(s)

Students will be able to understand the requirements of document-based essay questions and be able to write document based essays. Students will use math and science skills in order to interpret charts and graphs, social studies for background information on the essay topic, and language arts skills in writing the essay.

• Needs Analysis

The AP European Document Based Essay Question is 33% of a student’s total score on the AP European History Test. Students need to understand document based essays questions and how to write them. After surveying students only 42% of students have even written a document based essay question before. Further, after surveying students on the requirements for document based essay question it is apparent that not only am I going to be teaching how students how to analyze documents, but how to write an essay.

Based on the following survey question, which includes the key components of a document based essay question it is obvious that students need instruction, practice, and evaluation on each of these components of document based essay writing.

**How would you rate your understanding of how to satisfy the following document based essay requirements:**

					Answered Question	62
					Skipped Question	0
	no idea	somewhat of an idea	an idea	confident	RatingAverage	RatingCount
Thesis statement	1.6% (1)	14.5% (9)	35.5% (22)	48.4% (30)	3.31	62
Topic sentence	0.0% (0)	11.5% (7)	41.0% (25)	47.5% (29)	3.36	61

**How would you rate your understanding of how to satisfy the following document based essay requirements:**

Grouping of documents	19.4% (12)	43.5% (27)	24.2% (15)	12.9% (8)	2.31	62
Attrition of documents	62.9% (39)	24.2% (15)	4.8% (3)	8.1% (5)	1.58	62
Analysis of documents	8.1% (5)	17.7% (11)	53.2% (33)	21.0% (13)	2.87	62
Point of view of a document	4.8% (3)	27.4% (17)	43.5% (27)	24.2% (15)	2.87	62
Tone within a document	14.5% (9)	24.2% (15)	29.0% (18)	32.3% (20)	2.79	62
Citing documents with your essay	6.5% (4)	25.8% (16)	40.3% (25)	27.4% (17)	2.89	62
Reliability	12.9% (8)	19.4% (12)	46.8% (29)	21.0% (13)	2.76	62

• **Learner Analysis-**

Most of the students in the class are 15 – 16 years old. 61% of the class is girls and 57% of students went to Butler compared to 37% who went to Albion. 85% of students feel that they understand essays, but they are not happy about writing them. 5% don't understand how to write essays and 10% of them understand essays and enjoy writing them. 90% of my students are in Honors English. And 58% of my students have written a document based essay question before.

When asked what the first word that comes to mind is when you see the word document based essay question most students chose a word or phrase that was negative. All students have access to the internet at home and at school.

Average attendance for students is between 90% - 100% and class instruction time is 69 minutes.

Students are honor level students and have the ability to learn how to write document based essay questions.

- **Task Analysis -**

Core Skills	Expanded Core Points
Provides a clearly stated and appropriate thesis that addresses all parts of the question. Thesis should not merely be a restating of the question.	Having a clear, analytical, and comprehensive thesis.
Discusses a majority of the documents individually and specifically.	Using every document or almost every document.
Demonstrates an understanding of the basic meaning of the documents (you may misinterpret no more than one document).	Discussing bias or point of view in at least four documents.
Supports thesis with an appropriate interpretation of the majority of the documents.	Analyzing documents by creating additional groupings or using some other advanced method
Shows point of view or bias in at least three documents.	Using outside information
Analyzes documents by organizing them into at least three appropriate groups.	Displaying an understanding of the nuances within the document.
	Addresses all parts of the question thoroughly
	Uses documents persuasively as evidence.

Additional skills:  
 Pre-writing skills  
 Organization skills

- **Context for Instruction**

I will use resources from the College Board and from my English colleagues at the school. I want to use the same terminology as my colleagues when they teach essay writing. I will scaffold the essay writing into chunks and make sure that students have a clear and confident understanding of each step of essay writing. After they generally understand essay writing we will focus on the document based essay's core skill requirements and then eventually the expanded core points.

Finally, we will write an essay together as a class utilizing the technology I have in my room (computer and projector). Finally, students will write their own document based essay question. From years of experience teaching AP European History I feel that scaffolding the teaching of document based essay questions is the correct way to present information. This will allow me to ensure that students are mastering the information piece by piece.