

HOW TO TAKE NOTES USING YOUR TEXTBOOK

1. Write heading which includes pages and chapter.
2. Read the passage
3. TAKE NOTES
 - a. TURN SUBTITLES INTO QUESTIONS
 - b. ANSWER QUESTIONS (BULLETED NOTES)

TRANSITION WORDS AND PHRASES

To indicate more information:

- Besides
- Furthermore
- In addition
- Indeed
- In fact
- Moreover
- Second...Third..., etc.

To indicate an example:

- For example
- For instance
- In particular
- Particularly
- Specifically
- To demonstrate
- To illustrate

To indicate a cause or reason:

- As
- Because
- Because of
- Due to
- For
- For the reason that
- Since

To indicate a result or effect:

- Accordingly
- Finally
- Consequently
- Hence
- So
- Therefore
- Thus

To indicate a purpose or reason why:

- For fear that
- In the hope that
- In order to
- With this in mind

To compare or contrast:

- Although
- However
- In comparison
- In contrast
- Nevertheless
- On the other hand

To summarize:

- Briefly
- In brief
- Overall
- Summing up
- To put it briefly
- To sum up
- To summarize

To conclude:

- Given these facts
- Hence
- In conclusion
- So
- Therefore
- Thus
- To conclude

6th Grade Social Studies Rubric for DBQ's

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- Thorough discussions; a full & balanced response to the question
- Uses nearly all documents
- Incorporates accurate & relevant outside information
- Contains no significant factual errors or misinterpretation of documents
- Presents analysis which reflects understanding of complex issues
- Recognizes patterns & distinctions, draws conclusions, & evaluates relative importance
- Recognizes point of view where applicable
- Writes a well developed essay consistently demonstrating clear & logical organization, including a strong introduction & conclusion and a clearly stated thesis

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- A good response, but may be unevenly developed
- Uses most of the documents
- Includes some supplementary information
- Contains mostly accurate information and interpretation of documents
- Shows some understanding/ analysis of complex issues
- Evaluates evidence & formulates generally accurate conclusions
- Well developed essay demonstrating clear plan of organization including a strong introduction & conclusion and a general thesis

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- Competent response to the question
- Uses some of the documents
- Contains little or no supplementary information
- Attempts to formulate some conclusions: may contain some factual errors
- Essay may be unevenly developed with a general plan of organization
- Thesis missing, merely restates question or task

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- An incomplete response
- Uses little information from the documents
- No supplemental information
- Draws vague conclusions; many serious errors
- Writes a poorly organized essay lacking focus, vague or missing introduction or conclusion

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- Confused response
- No use of documents
- Misunderstands the question and/or responds in a dazed & vague manner
- Essay demonstrates major weakness in organization, vague or missing introduction or conclusion

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- Fails to address the question
- No response
- Blank paper or illegible or indecipherable

STEPS TO WRITING A DBQ ESSAY FOR 6th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Step 1: Define your essay with a Thesis Statement

Step 2: Organize the essay.

- Organize the information that you want to use in your essay through the use of a graphic organizer.
- During this pre-writing step, you should brainstorm as many facts as possible that could be used in your essay.
- Also make sure that you are addressing the task as well as the requirements from the rubric.

Step 3: Write the introduction.

- Revisit the historical context (background) and determine if you can use part or all of this statement in your introduction.
- Insert your thesis statement from step 1.
- If your thesis does not address the body paragraphs that will follow, compose a sentence that briefly introduces each topic.

Step 4: Write the body paragraphs.

- Write the first body paragraph.
 - Be sure to include all of the following components: topic sentence, supporting evidence in the body sentences, and a closing sentence.
 - Follow this same format as you write the additional body paragraphs.
 - Compose additional paragraphs if necessary in order to completely answer the essay question.

Be sure to use most of the documents provided in Part A in order to provide evidence which proves your thesis statement, and to meet the criteria in the rubric to earn a full credit for your essay.

Step 5: Write the conclusion.

- Summarize the subject of the essay.
 - You can often do this by restating the question in a different way.
 - Explain what you concluded about the essay question.
 - Summarize how the information in the body of your essay proves your point.

HOW TO PREPARE A THESIS STATEMENT

What is a thesis statement?

- Thesis statements serve research papers in one complete sentence or thought. In doing so, they tell the reader what your paper is about.
- Thesis statements establish the point of view the writer is taking, and the focus of the paper.
- Lastly, these statements set the mood for the paper, and they prepare the reader for facts and details which you will provide as evidence for your thesis.

Where are thesis statements located?

- Thesis statements are generally found in the introduction, or opening paragraph, of a research paper. In addition, thesis statements are often restated in the conclusion, or last paragraph.

A few general guidelines.

- The thesis statement is not constant; you may possibly change the statement before the paper is finished.
- The thesis statement does not have to be long or complicated.
- The thesis statement must be supported by using details in your paper.
- The thesis statement can appear anywhere in the opening paragraph, however, it is most likely to be the first or last sentence.
- Keep the reader or teacher's expectations in mind.
- Remember the ten minute movie rule!!

An example to follow.

A thesis statement that is too general serves no purpose! Always keep the statement specific.

Too General:

The Ancient Mesopotamians were an advanced culture.

Revised:

The many advances in technology, economy, and government empowered the ancient Mesopotamians to be successful for many years.

- The revised statement shows the reader how the essay is organized.
- The revised statement also provides the reader with a specific idea of what the paper is about.