STEPS TO CREATING A DOCUMENTS BASED QUESTION EXERCISE

1. Select a topic that relates to the essential question or unit question for your unit.
2. Create a provocative question
3. Select a set of documents at a variety of reading levels

News articles photos cartoons

Advertisements journals campaign posters

Telegrams pamphlets speeches—oral, written

War correspondence Confidential documents

Videos letters maps

Charts graphs tables

Propaganda oral history music lyrics

1. Write scaffolding questions for each document to help students unpack the document
2. Write case or event background
3. Create the hook to engage students in the topic at the start of the DBQ exercise

DBQ Lesson Process:

1. Introduce the Hook
2. Students read case background aloud, in groups, silently
3. Read the first document aloud as a class. Discuss the document questions.
4. Students read documents (all or selection), using analytical thinking to examine documents Answer document questions
5. Review answers to document questions. Create and complete graphic organizer that logically organizers information from the documents
6. Teach students how to write a thesis statement and analytical essay (this will take additional class periods)