

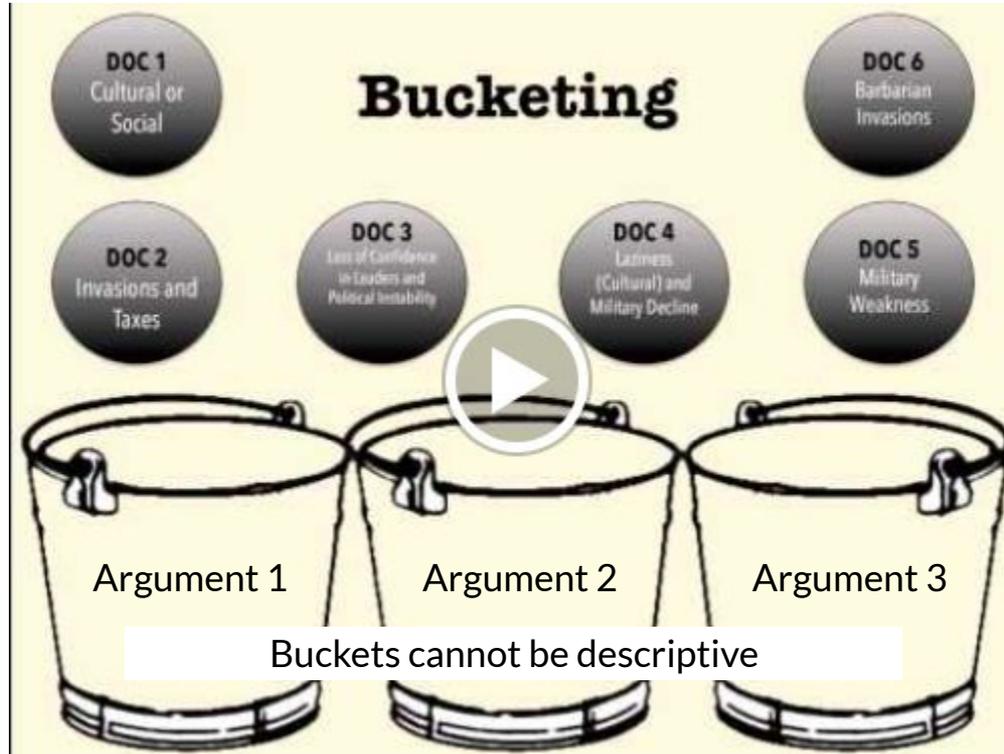
How to write a Spicy DBQ

Review



*Applies to regular DBQs and any AP DBQs!

Bucketing Documents



Your DBQ is like a hamburger...



A good essay looks as amazing as these burgers

Don't get “too artistic” - Get to the point



Which would you want to eat if you went to a restaurant for a regular burger?

This question applies to a DBQ as well. This is not an English paper, but a History paper.

Refrain from flowery language, clichés or analogies. Do not start preaching that Colonists are “arrogant, abusive fathers” treating the Native Americans poorly (and yes, this analogy is wrong in many levels).

Never serve me (or other teachers) an unicorn burger in history & social studies classes!



The hook is the name of the Burger!

It is clear and inviting (not vague)



Double Cheese
Burger



ダブルチーズ
バーガー

Bacon Lettuce
Burger



ベーコンレタス
バーガー

Teriyaki
Mac Burger



てりやきマック
バーガー

Chicken
Filet-o



チキンフィレオ

Juicy Chicken
Akatougarashi



ジューシーチキン
赤とうがらし

Cheese
Burger



チーズバーガー

Going back...



How many of these burgers will crumble when picked up?

Stick/S&P (thesis) to keep things together!



Salt really helps bring out that flavor!!

The burger (essay) is not a simple assembly of ingredients. It is Art.



- A delicious burger (essay) is **not** a bland assembly of ingredients.
- A delicious burger is **distinct**. All ingredients work together.



Which looks more appetizing?

Essay Burger

Spicy Essay/DBQ

Thesis

- Clear and argumentative, not a mere description (**Spicy**)
- The thesis alone can reveal everything (essay topic and argument)
- Lays out the main points of the essay
- Keeps it together
- E.G: Unlike other burgers, the OCSI burger is one of the best burgers because (point 1), (point 2), and (point 3).

Bland Essay/DBQ

Thesis

- Descriptive and lacks argument (**Bland**)
- The thesis cannot stand by itself
- Vaguely lays out main points of the essay
- Not necessary to keep essay together
- E.G.: The OCSI burger is distinct and special.

Question of the DBQ Practice

Was it inevitable and unavoidable that violence and dispossession were outcomes of the centuries-long confrontation of Native Americans with European settlers and their American descendents?

Question of the DBQ Practice

Was it inevitable and unavoidable that violence and dispossession were outcomes of the centuries-long confrontation of Native Americans with European settlers and their American descendents?

Good thesis:

- Question is palpable in thesis
- Takes stance: inevitable or avoidable
- Clearly states about the relations between Native Americans with European settlers/American descendents
- Clear that writer read the provided documents

Bland Thesis Example (Practice DBQ)

Violence and dispossession between the Native Americans and European settlers were unavoidable due to the differences in opinion.

The difference in belief led to the inevitable confrontation between the Native Americans and European settlers.

Confrontation between the Native Americans and European settlers, esp in Mexico, Florida, New England, etc., ruined any potential friendship between the two groups, which was a result of American greed and superiority complex, a characteristic that was unrestrained and...

It was inevitable due to differences in culture, belief, and values. (an ok thesis)

• **this thesis is debatable and a tad spicy but...it's not clear what was inevitable**

Spicy Thesis Example (Practice DBQ)

Violent confrontation and dispossession between the Native Americans and the Europeans and their descendants were inevitable because of the difference in belief, culture, and values.

Differences in culture, religion, and values between the Native Americans and the newcomers resulted in an inevitable confrontation.

The [confrontation with the] natives was most likely unavoidable because of cultural difference in manner & learning, the strong belief Europeans had about themselves and forcing religion on the natives.

I believe the violence & dispossession between the Native Americans and European settlers were unavoidable due to the difference in belief, culture, and American greed.

Spicy Thesis Example (For AP Students)

I prefer one sentence thesis statements, as it is clean, clear, and straight to the point. However, some teachers argue that 2-3 sentences are better.

For the AP DBQs, it may be best to write 2-3 sentences given that complexity is also key for a high score.

Dr. Irish's Thesis Formula (multiple sentences)

- **X** (Your Counter Argument / Concession Statement)
- However, **A** and **B** (Your Two Strongest Positions)
- Therefore **Y** (your stand with regard to the question / prompt)
- These (**X, A, B, Y**) represents concepts, not necessarily sentences
- Follow this formula for AP Tests!

Spicy Thesis Example (For AP Students)

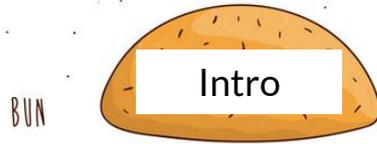
Essay Prompt: Evaluate the relative importance of causes which led to the American Civil War.

By the 1850s the issue over slavery had entrenched itself so much into the Southern economy that neither side was willing to compromise over the issue. [X] However, other economic factors also contributed to the growing divide. The trade connections that developed between the East and the West alienated Southerners. [A] Politically, there were causes that were also strong. The federation that had developed and evolved was viewed by Southerners as one that was inherently prejudiced toward the federal government at the expense of the states. [B] Therefore, despite the issue over slavery, economic trade and states rights were more important factors leading to the American Civil War. [Y] (Source: Dr. Irish's Essays in APUSH)

- The above thesis statement is a perfect thesis; it will be difficult to write such thesis statements all the time. Do not feel pressured to write such complicated statements all the time!
- The above is not an introduction; it is a thesis statement.

No need to have all ingredients...

Intro: Context



Doc E

Doc A



EGG



Doc F

Doc B



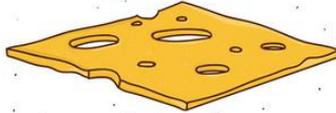
ONION



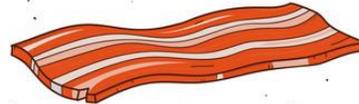
Doc G

Doc C

CHEESE



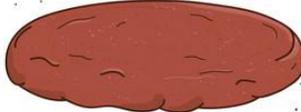
BACON



Doc H

Doc D

CUTLET



MUSHROOMS



Doc I

Conclusion
Repeat Argument
Finishing Touch

BUN

Conclusion

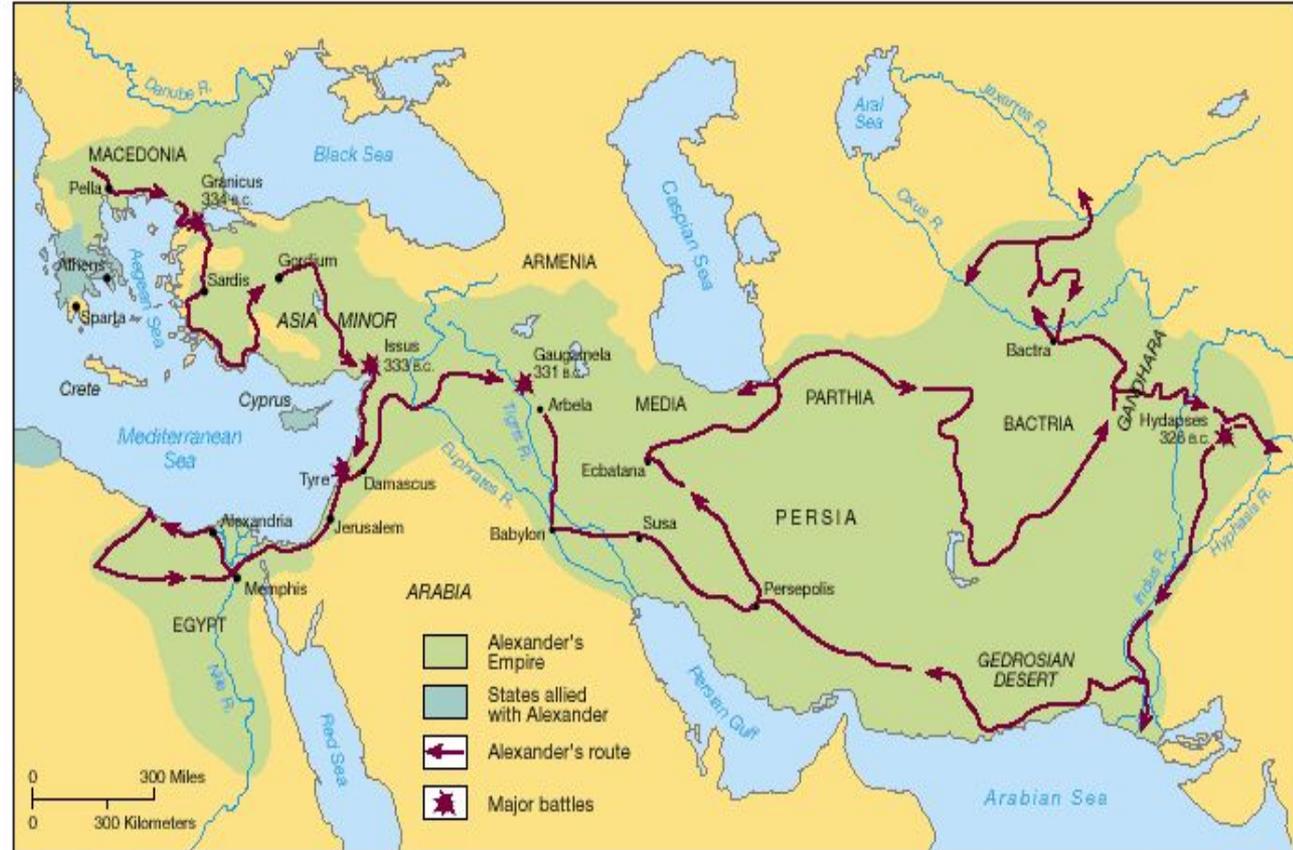
SAUCE



Of course, unlike a burger, a strong DBQ should include most documents

Maps

According to the map, how much resistance did Alexander face as he expanded his empire?



 The Empire of Alexander the Great. Alexander's conquests united Eurasia from Greece to India into a cultural and, briefly, a political unity.

Arts

According to this painting, what was the relationship between Greek gods and humans?

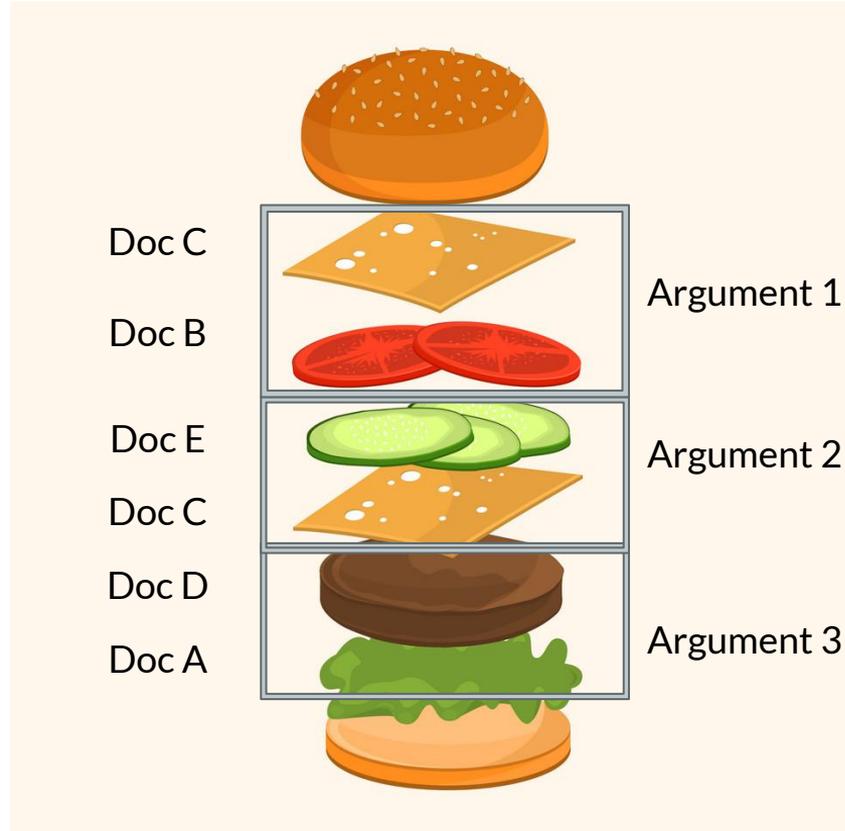


Primary Resource

According to this funeral speech by Pericles in 430 BCE, what is the responsibility of a government to its citizens?

“Our constitution does not copy the laws of neighboring states; we are rather a pattern to others. Its administration favors the many instead of the few. If we look to the laws, they afford equal Justice; if to social standing advancement in public life falls to reputation for capacity, class considerations not being allowed to interfere with arete (virtue), nor does poverty bar the way. If a man is able to serve the state, he is not hindered by obscurity of his condition, fear is our chief safeguard.”

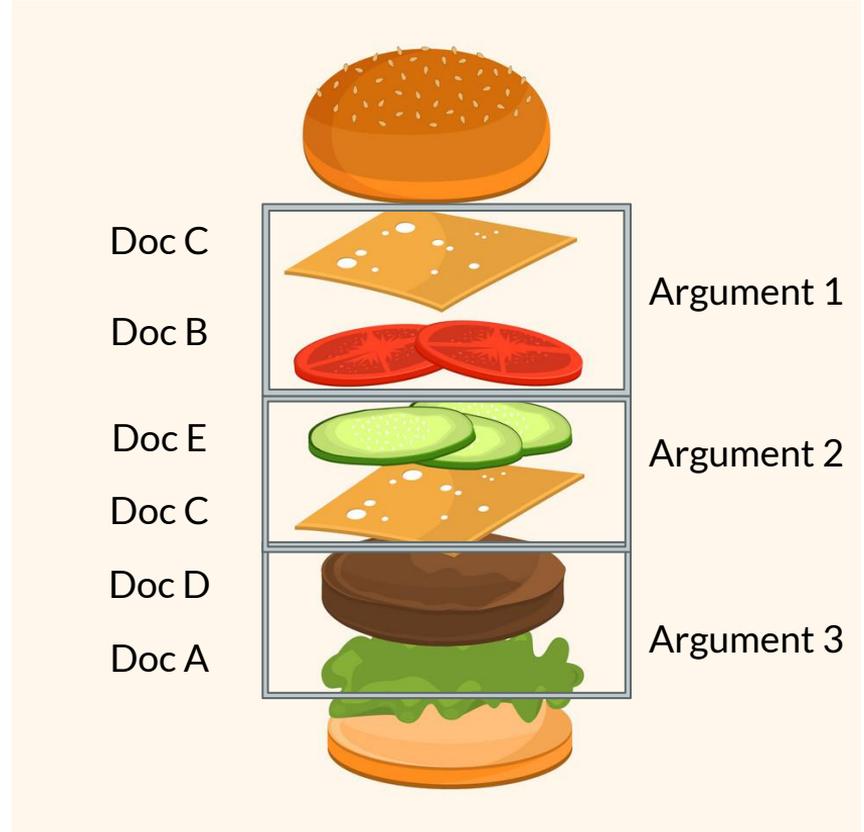
Ability to separate documents per argument



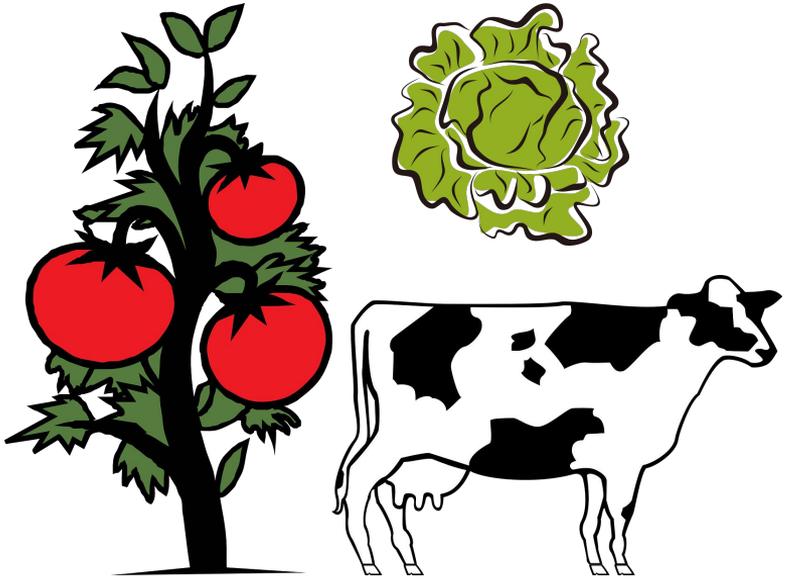
Introducing your sources

If you're a chef, you're not going to write on the menu that the burger consists of ingredients 1-7; you will most likely write the names of the ingredients, such as tomato, beef, cheese, etc.

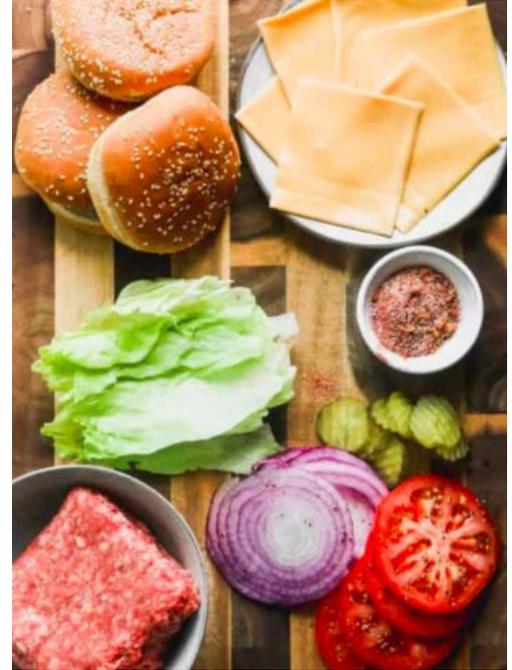
This concept is same for your DBQs!
Do not write "According to Doc. 3..."
Instead, use the author's name if provided. For example, if Document 3 is written by Hayashi, write "According to Hayashi (Doc. 3)," "Hayashi explains... (Doc. 3)," etc.



How do you assemble your burger?



VS



This applies to DBQs as well! Don't give me a burger full of direct quotations; this shows the reader that either (1) the writer does not understand the source or (2) does not know how to paraphrase.

How to cut up your ingredients

Doc 1: Indigenous peoples suffered from white brutality, alcoholism, the killing and driving off of game, and the expropriation of farmland, but all these together are insufficient to explain the degree of their defeat. The crucial factor was not people, plants, or animals, but germs. The history of the United States begins with Virginia and Massachusetts, and their histories begin with epidemics of unidentified diseases. At the time of the abortive Virginia colony at Roanoke in the 1580s the nearby Amerindians “began to die quickly. The disease was so strange that they neither knew what it was, nor how to cure it.”

- The Native Americans “suffered from white brutality, alcoholism” and “germs” (Doc 1)
- The European colonists mistreated the Native Americans. However, more than the treatment, Native Americans were victims of the Old World germ: “The crucial factor was not people, plants, or animals, but germs” (Doc 1).

DO NOT write like these two sentences! The quote in sentence 1 shows that the writer does not know how to paraphrase and/or understand the original text and the quote in sentence 2 is repeating the writer’s original sentence.

You also need the buns to pick it up!

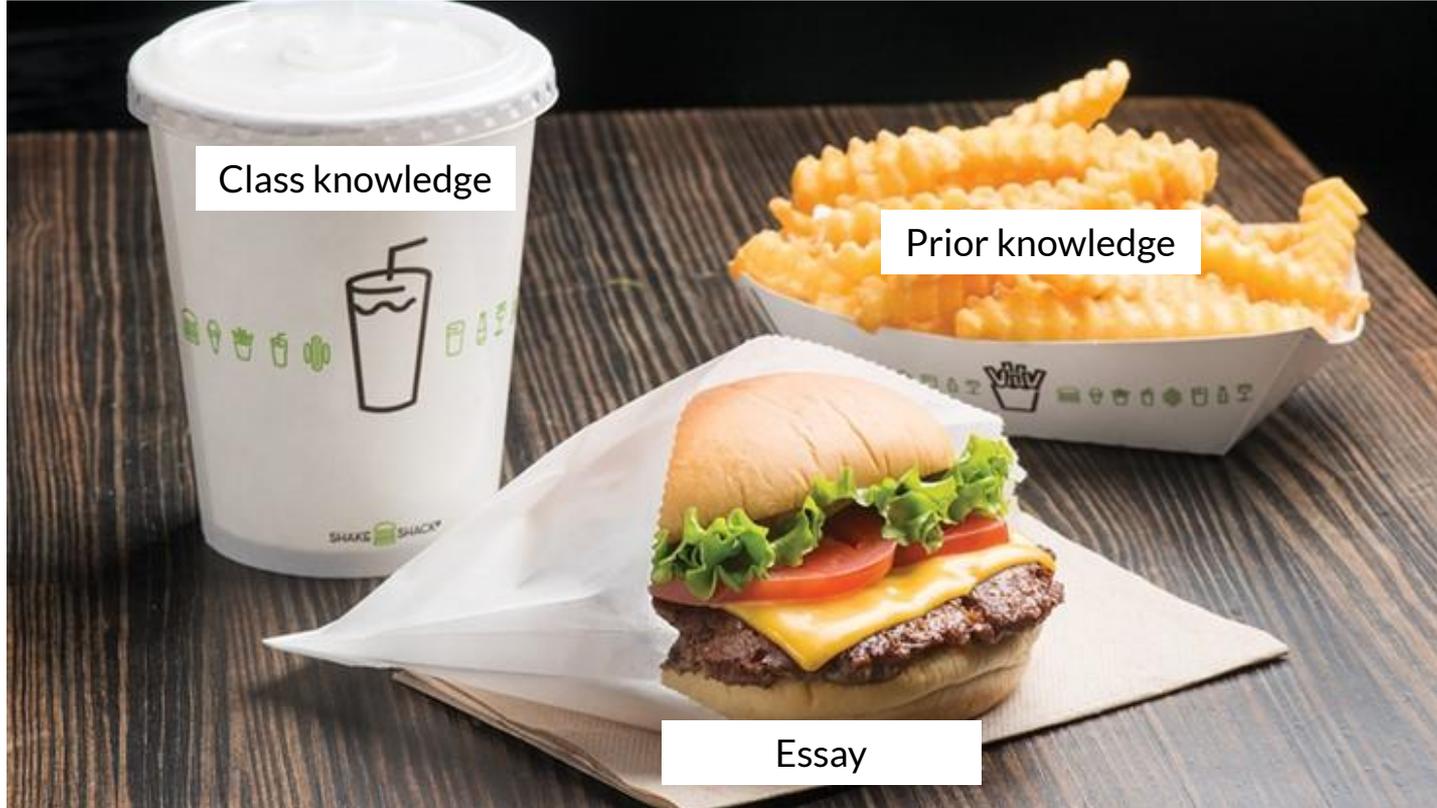


Introduction and
conclusion: absolute
necessity

The conclusion **cannot**
be one sentence, it
must carry the weight
of the argument

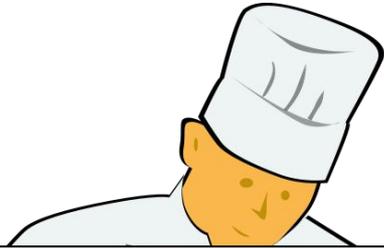
No thank you to greasy fingers!! Am I right??

Feel free to include outside knowledge!



Sandwich is fine, but a combo/set menu is better!! Absolutely necessary for AP DBQs.

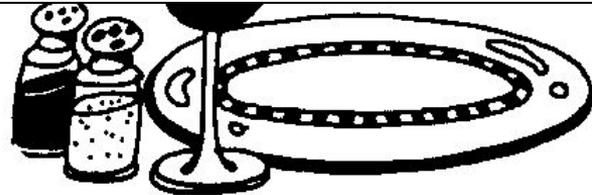
You're the chef, I'm the customer



Unlike a full course meal, hamburger is a fast food.
I can't wait forever!

You need to try your best to make something before time's up!

*AP Students have 1 hour to read all 7 documents (as of 2020) and finish their essay



Everything mentioned here also applies to your other essays:

- 1) Spicy thesis**
- 2) Clear and inviting hook**
- 3) Solid intro/conclusion**
- 4) Convincing evidence, etc..**
- 5) Paraphrase > Full of quotes**
- 6) Proper citation**



Good Luck & I Look forward to those DBQs!



Your essay shouldn't be raw!



Season well and write up an irresistible essay!!