Notes on Answering LEQs & DBQs

**Step One: Understanding the Question**

1. Identify both the TASK & TERMS

* Task = “What are you asked to do?” (Historical Thinking Skills)
* Terms = “What are you to discuss?” (Time Period & Subject)

1. Dissect the question.

* Circle the task words
* Underline the Era or Years
* Box the Topic (PERSIA)

**Step Two: Evidence**

Ask yourself what you know about the TERMS?

* Brainstorm everything you know
* Categorize/Group (try for 3)

*DBQ (only): Analyze Documents*

*3 Step Process (S-A-C)*

* *Summarize: What does it say?*
* *Analyze: Why does it matter?*
* *Criticize: How does the source influence meaning? (POV/CAP)*

**Step Three: Creating a Thesis**

1. Must address TASK & TERMS
2. Incorporate EVIDENCE CATEGORIES
3. Make it ANALYTICAL by explaining why categories matter (counter argument is also a good thing here)

**Step Four: Introduction (Contextualization & Thesis)**

Write out steps 1-3.

Contextualization:

Set the stage by explaining the overall situation. What is going on around the topic? How does the topic fit into the BIG PICTURE?

**Step Five: Body**

1. Topic Sentence: Why this matters to the thesis?
2. Write sentences describing each piece of evidence.
3. Write sentences analyzing why each piece of evidence develops a category and therefore matters to the thesis.

*DBQ (only): Document Analysis*

* *Must USE six of the documents*
* *Critically analyze four using POV/CAP*
* *Outside evidence used to support the thesis (Evidence Beyond the Documents)*

**Step Six: Conclusion (Thesis)**

1. Connect the topic to another place or time in a way that strengthens the argument. (Synthesis)
2. Repeat the thesis in a slightly different way.