

DBQ: Do's and Don'ts

MS. EVANS' QUICK TIPS FOR EASY WRITING



DO: Get Your Reader's Attention in the Introduction

- ▶ Just think... whoever reads this essay is going to be reading more than one, so how can your essay stand out?
- ▶ You can use an interesting quote, song lyric, or phrase to start your introduction BUT be sure that it still makes you sound educated/knowledgeable
 - ▶ There's a difference between quoting Shakespeare and "Mary had a Little Lamb"!!!!

DO: Include a thesis statement in your introduction

- ▶ The Chicken Foot is fool-proof and easy to remember!
- ▶ Don't overthink this part, just copy it from the Chicken Foot
- ▶ Your reader wants to know what you will be explaining in your essay, like a road map, so don't leave them guessing OR WORSE, make them think that you're about to rattle off nonsense for 4 more paragraphs!

DO: Reference the Documents

- ▶ Sentence Frames can help you reference documents in your essay in a sophisticated way:
 - ▶ According to Document A...
 - ▶ Document B refers to...
 - ▶ Document C provides the best evidence for...
 - ▶ When taken together with Document E, Document F illustrates the point that....b
 - ▶ Evaluating Document D, there is evidence to suggest that...
 - ▶ The reader is lead to believe that Washington was anxious to cross the Delaware River (Document E) but that...

DON'T: Use "I" statements

- ▶ Guess what?! The person who reads this essay knows that YOU are the one who wrote it, so saying things like "I believe that..." or "I think that..." is pointless PLUS it makes it look like you might be the only one who thinks like that and that your thoughts could be incorrect

- ▶ "I think that Document A could show that..."

VS.

- ▶ "Document A clearly points to the fact that..."

DON'T: Forget to use ALL the documents

- ▶ If the person who gives you the essay gives you 6 documents, they want you to take into account ALL 6 of them in your essay
- ▶ You can't "pick and choose" which documents you like best to fit your point so your thesis should be able to be proven by ALL documents