

Document Based Question

grade level: junior high

theskyscrapermuseum
tools for teaching

The documents in this DBQ vary in their level of difficulty. As such, there are a number of ways to use this material in your classroom.

- ▶ Traditional DBQ. Assign all the documents and one or two of the questions that accompany each to all students, requiring them to use a number of them in an essay written in response to the prompt.
- ▶ Practice Document Analysis. Assign individual documents and accompanying questions to students according to their level of readiness. The documents are given here in order from least to most difficult. In a subsequent class period, you may arrange students in small groups to share their findings with one another, or have students explain their learning to the whole class. Once students have a breadth of knowledge on the topic, assign the essay response to be written in class or as homework.
- ▶ Differentiated group activity. Give small groups of students a number of documents to examine and respond to, and have them plan a response to the essay prompt as a group. However, give students a choice as to their mode of presentation—for example, a poster, a five-minute newscast, or a traditional written response—that may better suit their learning style. Include a group grading sheet so that students may evaluate one another's performance on the task.



▶ Essay Prompt

The Empire State Building was the tallest building in the world and was the skyscraper with the most floor space when it was built in 1929-1931. It was built more cheaply than expected and much faster than previous skyscrapers had been built. Write a brief essay explaining some of the planning and technological developments that helped to make the Empire State Building possible. In your essay, include:

I. An introduction and conclusion

II. Evidence from at least four or five of the documents given

III. Correct spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure

IV. Reasons why the planning and technology used in the construction of the Empire State Building helped it to be built more quickly and cheaply than had been thought possible