



# BETA's Global & U.S. History DBQ & Thematic Essay Writing Guide

This quick reference guide will assist you in writing DBQ & Thematic Essays for the NYS Regents in Global History & Geography and U.S. History.

## Introduction (D.R.L. Formula)

**Step #1:** Define the theme (write a definition explaining the theme)

**Step #2:** Rewrite the theme or historical context in your own words replacing words as needed.

**Step #3:** List the topic(s) you are writing about.

## DBQ Essay Body Paragraphs

**Step #1:** Look at the task.

**Step #2:** Complete each bullet for each topic listed.

**Step #3:** Use separate paragraphs for more than one topic.

**Step #4:** Use information from the documents to answer the bullets. Ex. In doc #1... or Doc #1 states... or According to document #1...

**Step #5:** Add detail such as geography, definitions, people, cause & effect, positive & negative, similarities & differences. This is outside information and necessary.

## Thematic Essay Body Paragraphs

**Step #1:** Look at the task.

**Step #2:** Complete each bullet for each topic listed.

**Step #3:** Use separate paragraphs for more than one topic.

**Step #4:** Add detail such as geography, definitions, people, cause & effect, positive & negative, similarities & differences.

## Conclusion

**Step #1:** Restate your theme or historical context. Change the wording slightly.

**Step #2:** Give one example from each of your Body paragraphs.

**Step #3:** Relate the topic to the world today. Such as; Today we have similar ... such as ... or We still have the same problems today such as... or Today we have come very far in ....

By using this NYS Regents Formula, you can achieve a minimum score of at least a 3 out of 5 for each of your essays.

It is very important that you have an **Introduction, Body paragraph, and Conclusion**. Without a Conclusion you cannot receive a grade higher than a 2 out of 5.

