

Name: _____

Period: _____

U.S. History Document Based Essay Rubric

Characteristic	AP Score 5 100% - 90%	AP Score 4 89% - 80%	AP Score 2-3 79% - 68%	Score 0-1 67% or below	Points Per Characteristic
Introduction	Thought provoking catch phrase that grabs the reader's attention. Effectively sets the scene with background information about the time period.	Catch phrase effectively grabs the reader's attention. Somewhat sets the scene with some background information about the time period.	Lacks a catch phrase that grabs the reader's attention. Lacks setting the scene with background information about the time period.	No catch phrase and/or very little background information about the time period.	_____ / 10
Thesis	Clear, well developed argument	Contains a limited argument	Lacks a clear argument	No argument	_____ / 15
Documentary Evidence	Effective use of the documents.	Fair use of the documents	Poor use of the documents	Almost no use of or weak attempts to use documents	_____ / 10
Point	Clear, well explained point	Clear point, but needs a bit more explanation	Point is only somewhat clear, and lacks explanation	No clear point with little explanation	_____ / 15
Proof	Substantial proof – clearly related to the point	Fair proof – somewhat helps to prove the point	Weak proof – does not fully help to prove the point	Lacks proof to support the point	_____ / 15
Analysis	Detailed – expertly explains how the point & proof support thesis	Fairly detailed – somewhat explains how the point & proof support the thesis.	Weak details– lacks explanation of how the point & proof support the thesis.	Lacks all analysis of how the point & proof support the thesis	_____ / 15
Grammar and Structure	May contain few errors	May contain some errors that do not detract from writing	May contain many minor errors that detract from writing	Contains many major errors that detract from the writing	_____ / 10
Organization and Writing Style	Well organized and well written	Clearly organized and written, but lacks formal academic style	Weak organization and writing	Disorganized and poorly written	_____ / 10

_____ / 100