

Writing a Document Based Essay Question: Citations

Background: A citation is a way to let your reader know the source of the information you use when you write an academic work. The citation style you will use for our essays is known as *parenthetical citation*, which means you give credit for the source at the end of the sentence or sentences that use that source (in parentheses). At the end of a paper, you would have a list of the works cited, called References, with all the details about the works you used.

When you are writing a DBQ essay, you do not need a citations list, because the works you will be citing are all from the DBQ packet. You do not have to cite if you are incorporating common knowledge. However, when you are writing DBQs this year, I ask you to cite your own, **SPECIFIC** knowledge at the end of the passages that incorporate that knowledge. This allows you, as the writer, to ensure that you have a good combination of documents and outside information. This also allows me, as the reader, to view that combination more clearly.

You cite in a paper at the end of a sentence (or sentences) before you change **idea** or **source**. You do **not** cite at the end each sentence, **wait** until right before you change your focus or change your source.

When you are writing your DBQ, remember that one of your goals is to demonstrate ownership of the **SPECIFIC** evidence from the documents and your own knowledge. You cite to show from where you gained that knowledge.

Task: Below are some examples of the ways a writer might use their documents and outside information. Rank the sentences with the following scale, based on their fluency with the subject AND their use of citations:

E - Excellent	G - Good	S - Satisfactory	NI - Needs Improvement
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- _____ 1. Conditions in tenements were crowded, dirty, and often unsanitary, and Jacob Riis tells us this.
- _____ 2. People thought the question of pure food was vitally important to Americans.
- _____ 3. The horrible conditions many factory workers were subjected to were exemplified by the fire that broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory (o.i.).
- _____ 4. Pollution in the United States occurred in rural and urban areas. Coal burning machines like steam shovels, tractors, and dredges polluted rural areas while railroads, factories, and homes burned coal in urban areas (o.i.).

- _____ 5. In document 3, John Muir argues that it is necessary for the government to protect "the beauty, grandeur, and all-embracing usefulness of our wild mountain" forests and parks and to step in to save nature from "fools".
- _____ 6. Children went to work in factories because their families needed the income. Sometimes families would pay a forger to create documents to get around state laws that restricted child labor.
- _____ 7. Child labor subjected children to dangerous conditions. They might be forced to remove bobbins while a machine was operating. Children no older than 12 could be found standing barefoot and unprotected on a machine that could easily inflict injury.
- _____ 8. The Progressive Party, represented by former President Theodore Roosevelt, ran on a platform that included a desire to reintroduce a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." Their platform included a demand for direct election of Senators, legislation to protect workers from hazardous workplaces, an end to child labor, and one days rest in seven (doc 6). The party lost the 1912 election, but did have influence on laws created in the 1910s.
- _____ 9. A common perception at the time was that the Senate was controlled by "monopolists" who used their power and money to influence laws. Senators used their influence to intervene on behalf of big business, resulting in legislation that benefitted American businesses like the McKinley Tariff of 1890, which increased the tariff on commonly imported goods to nearly 50%.
- _____ 10. Jane Addams created Hull House, a place in Chicago that offered a "helping hand" to those that wished to "educate themselves or find work" (doc. 7).
- _____ 11. Impure food was not limited to the contents of sausages and canned meat. In New York City, milk from sick cows and watered-down milk was doctored with plaster of Paris, starch, eggs and molasses. *The New York Times* estimated that 8,000 children died each year from the consumption of this milk.
- _____ 12. One consequence of Tammany Hall's thievery was that New York City did not thrive like its neighbor across the river. While New York seemed to be flattened by the weight of Tweed's corruption, New Jersey had flourishing trade, manufacturing, construction, and public education (doc 8).

Because you are explaining the problems and later describing the solutions, it's important to **avoid directly mentioning solutions in the problems paragraphs**. Several of the above sentences are strong examples of how you can use the document without directly mentioning the solution. Circle the numbers of the statements that do this well.