There are SEVEN possible points on the DBQ:

1. **Write a historically defensible claim (THESIS) that answers all parts of the question and establishes a line of reasoning.**
   - Key phrase: Historically Defensible
   - Answer all parts of the question
   - One (or more) sentences in the introduction or conclusion
   - Uses your document groupings to develop your line of reasoning
   - *The best thesis statements will use the documents to establish one of the historical reasoning skills: comparison, causation, CCOT*

2. **Contextualize your argument in perspective.**
   - Put your argument in historical context
     - Broader historical events, developments, processes - before and after the topic of the prompt
   - What larger forces are at work?
     - Go beyond the info in the documents
   - Put this at the beginning of your essay before the thesis.
     - Recommend adding some contextualization in the conclusion as well.
     - To give yourself even more opportunity for this point, add some contextualization to each body paragraph.

3. **Use the content of at least THREE documents to address the topic.**
   - Describe the content of at least three documents
     - Do NOT just quote or paraphrase.
   - You must show that you understand the content of the document.

4. **Use the content of at least SIX documents to support the argument in your thesis.**
   - Back up your thesis with evidence from the documents
     - Use all SEVEN (in case you get one wrong)
     - Don't just quote or paraphrase
   - The difference between earning 1 point or 2 points is in how effectively you connect each document to your topic sentences and therefore to your thesis.

5. **Use at least ONE additional piece of specific historical evidence to support your argument.**
   - Must describe the evidence - explain how it supports your argument
     - Can't just mention it
   - Must be different than the evidence used to earn the contextualization point.
   - Recommended that you add one additional piece of evidence in each body paragraph to give yourself the best chance to earn the point

6. **Explain the significance of the source in at least THREE documents.**
   - Must go beyond the info in the document
   - Explain the doc's significance
     - SOAP - Speaker's POV, Occasion, Audience, Purpose
   - *THIS IS CRITICAL!!! How does the information about this source affect the document?*
     - How or why is the sourcing relevant to your argument?

7. **Demonstrate complex understanding of the historical development of the prompt.**
   - Difficult point to earn; must be found throughout the essay not just in a phrase or reference
   - This point can be earned in a variety of ways
     - Explain nuance of an issue
     - Explain both similarity AND difference
     - Explain both change AND continuity
     - Explain both cause AND effect
     - Insightful connections within and across time periods
     - Support an argument with multiple perspectives / themes
     - Consider diverse or alternative views of evidence
DBQ Quick Guide - Structure

Paragraph #1: Introduction
● Contextualization - what is the larger picture of history in which the prompt is situated that lead to the prompt?
● Thesis: Sort the documents into groups. Write a thesis paragraph that addresses the prompt using your groupings and one of the historical reasoning skills - COMP, CAUSATION, or CCOT.

Body Paragraph 1:
Based on your thesis, create a topic sentence that explains ONE group to be discussed.

Body Paragraph 2:
Based on your thesis, create a topic sentence that explains ANOTHER group to be discussed.

Body Paragraph 3:
(if you have one)
Based on your thesis, create a topic sentence that explains ANOTHER group to be discussed.

Paragraph #5: Conclusion
● Contextualization - should be different from your contextualization at the beginning; another opportunity to set the bigger picture; how does your argument connect to other events, times, or places
● Re-state Your Argument
● Complex Understanding - this shouldn’t be the only place you address the complex understanding point but it’s a good place to summarize those connections and perspectives that could earn you this point

DBQ Quick Guide - Dos & Don’ts

DO Summarize each document
DO Connect each document summary to an argument (topic sentence and use of key prompt terms)
DO Refer to the document by author or title and number.
DO Uses all seven of the documents to support your arguments. (You may omit one, but that is a risk).
DO Explain the significance of author's point of view, purpose, document's historical situation, and/or audience for at least THREE documents.
DO use outside information

DON’T Quote the document (waste of time, see first “Do” above)
DON’T Lump documents together:
  ○ "Document 3 and 4 both talk about ... "
DON’T Write a ‘laundry list’ where you summarize each document in order
  ○ Document 1 is about … Document 2 talks about … In document 3 the author says … The main point in document 4 is …
DON’T Ignore/misrepresent pictures or graphs
  ○ Making stuff up will not get you credit for the document
DON’T Forget a document. You may omit ONE document but it is a risk, because if you make one mistake and omit one you will not receive a fairly easy point.
DON’T Use social, political, economic, or cultural as categories!