

The Thesis Formula:

LC & BC. Although X, Y because AB. or LC & BC. X. However A and B. Therefore, Y.

'LC' and 'BC' represents the local and broad context of your topic, process, or event. This is "setting the scene" for your essay, and on the DBQ essay there is a separate point on the rubric for contextualization. Your contextualization needs at least one specific piece of evidence that is not found in the body paragraphs or synthesis.

'X' represents the strongest point against your argument. We call this the counter-argument. It can also be an alternate viewpoint. This X needs to be explained (with evidence) in your introduction.

'A, B' represents the two strongest points for your argument. We call these your organization categories.

'Y' represents the position you will be taking – in other words, your stand on the prompt. Your Y must be clear and *ATFP...address the full prompt!*