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Comparison of AP English Language Synthesis Essay and APUSH DBQ

Synthesis Essay Document-Based Question

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| **Similarities** |
| 1. Use sources to support a thesis  | 1. Use documents to support a thesis  |
| 2. Must cite sources  | 2. Must cite sources  |
| 3. Read for 15 minutes (suggested)  | 3. Read for 15 minutes (suggested)  |
| 4. Do not simply paraphrase -- no "laundry list"  | 4. Do not simply paraphrase -- no "laundry list"  |
| 5. Must "enter into a conversation"  | 5. Must understand the complexity of the historical issue to "enter into a conversation"  |

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| 6. Consider the author's purpose, audience, and point of view  | 6. Consider the author's purpose, audience, and point of view  |
| 7. Must develop a clear, organized argument  | 7. Must develop a clear, organized argument  |
| **Differences** |
| 1. Sources provided  | 1. Documents provided  |
| 2. Primary and secondary sources used  | 2. Only primary sources used  |
| 3. Suggested writing time: 40 minutes  | 3. Suggested writing time: 45 minutes  |
| 4. Outside information not required  | 4. Outside information required  |
| 5. Must use a minimum of three sources  | 5. Expected to use more than half of the documents (not specifically stated in the directions)  |
| 6. Prompt in three parts: directions, introduction, and assignment  | 6. Directions with statement or question  |