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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 |