TerHaar's Best Practices for the DBQ in APUSH

Instructions for the Reading the Question (15 mins):
- Read the darn question (RTDQ)
- Identify the type of question
- Take two minutes to write down everything that comes to mind
- Read over and APARTS the documents (author, place and time, prior knowledge, audience, reason, the main idea, significance)
- Formulate thesis (one-sided, middle, or both)

A Solid Introduction:
- Provides a context or background information
- Addresses all aspects of the question
- States a clear position or thesis (underline)
- Provides an organizational framework or roadmap (allows for development of ideas)
- Demonstrates critical thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation)
- Uses the 2-1-1 format

A Solid Essay:
- Contains analysis, synthesis, and/or evaluation
- Assumes the reader is an idiot (explains everything)
- Includes a reference to 5-6 doc's (in any order)
- Provides a counter-argument
- Writes in the third person
- Properly cites doc's
- Avoids over-generalizations "Always" and "Never"
- Is at least three pages
- Contains a conclusion

Analysis (detailed examination)- Categorize, compare, criticize, distinguish, examine
Evaluation (judgment)- Appraise, assess, choose, defend, estimate, predict
Synthesis (putting together parts to make a whole)- Compose, develop, formulate, organize, plan, propose