How To Succeed At AP World DBQs

Don't Become Extinct!

Mr. Sforza
Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy

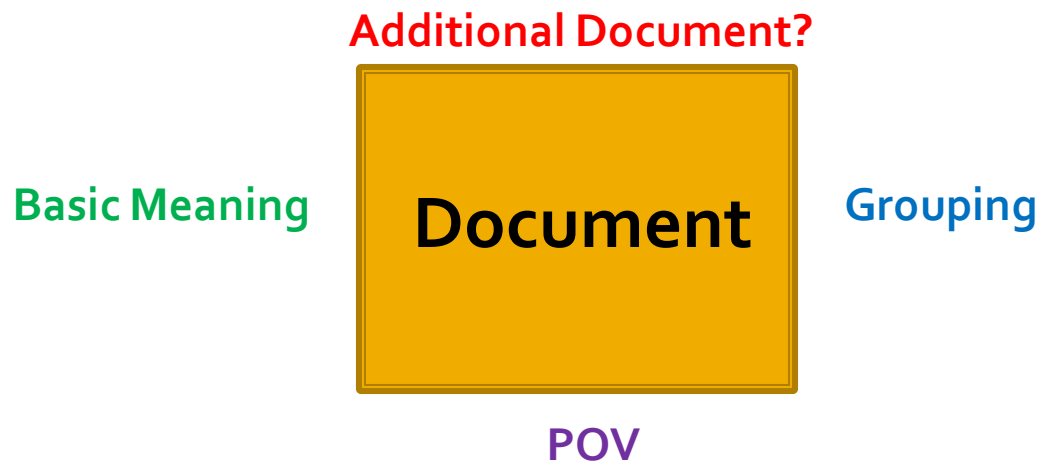# Step 1: Read the Question and the Historical Background

- What is the question asking you to do?
- What is the *verb* in the question?
  - Ex: "Analyze"
- What is the object of the verb?
  - Analyze *what*?
  - *When?*
  - *Where?*
- Sample Question:
  - *Analyze the development of Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy between 2010 and 2013.*

Step 2: Analyze the Evidence

- Questions you should be asking:
  - What is the **basic meaning** of the document?
  - How can I use this document to answer the question? What other documents can I use to answer the question in a similar way?
  - Who is the **author** ? Who is the author's **intended audience**? What is the **intended outcome**? What is the **tone**?
  - Is there some other information that would help 'flesh out' the evidence in this document?

Step 2: Analyze the Evidence (cont.)

- You may want to develop a **uniform note-taking technique** that will help you find information later
- Example:

Additional Document?

Basic Meaning **Document** **Grouping**

POV

Step 3: Planning Your Thesis

- Decide on 2 or 3 different **main points** that encompass **all** of the documents
- Decide which documents will be used for which **main points**
- You may want to do this using graphics:

RKA Sports

#2 #5
#7 #9

RKA Academics

#4 #1
#6

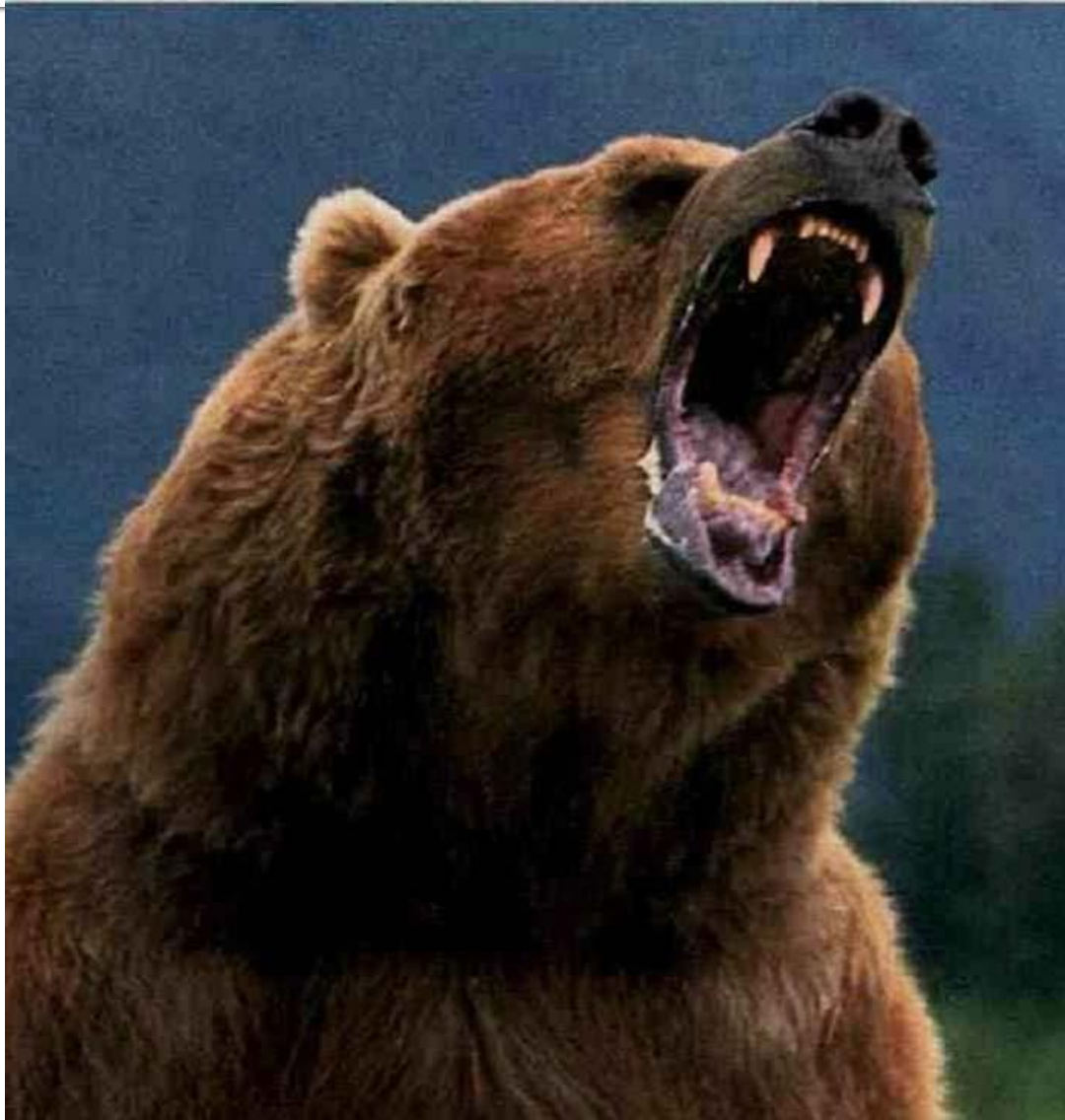**RKA Staff**

#3
#8

Step 3: Planning Your Thesis (cont.)

- But… what if one document doesn't 'fit' your main points?
- Do Not:
  - Leave out the document!
- Do:
  - Create another main idea for that one document; or
  - Make it fit!
    - Find a place where it fits best and 'stretch' it's meaning in order to make it support one of your main points

Step 4: Write Your Thesis

- Limit yourself to one background sentence
- Write one sentence for each main point:
  - Main Point #1
  - Main Point #2
  - Main Point #3
- Don't mention the documents yet!

GRIZZLY
BEARS
SCARE
PEOPLE
AT **D**USK

Step 5: The Topic Sentence

- Restate one of your Main Points and identify which documents you will use to support it.
- Example: *"RKA's progress in athletics during this period is evident in documents 2, 5, 7, & 9."*

G is for GROUPING!

GRIZZLY

Step 6: Basic Understanding

- Show a basic understanding of your first document (one sentence only)
- Example: *"Document 2 is a photograph of a championship banner hanging in the gym."*

B is for

Basic Understanding!

BEARS

Step 7: Support the Thesis

- Explain how this document supports Main Point #1
- Example: *"This shows that the school reached a level of excellence in baseball in 2011."*

S is for Support!

SCARE

Step 8: Analyze Point of View

- Identify the author & analyze his or her *intended audience* and/or *intended outcome* and/or *tone*.
- Example: *"The athletic director created this banner. He wishes to display the achievements to everyone who walks into the gym."*

P is for Point of View

PEOPLE

Repeat Steps 6-8

- Repeat steps 6-8 for each document in this group
- It's OK you don't have POV for each

Step 9: Additional Document

- Identify an additional document that would help you further support your main point
- Example: *"A quote from a student-athlete would help evaluate the impact of RKA athletics. This would offer a firsthand account of how sports directly affect students' educational experiences."*

AD is for Additional Document

AT DUSK

Now, repeat…

- Steps 5-9 for each body paragraph

Conclusion

- Restate/summarize the thesis
- Only if you have extra time