

## **The U.S. History DBO Argument Tower**

*A Description:* A collection of assertions is no more an argument than a pile of bricks is a building. Both must be planned, organized, and thoughtfully supported. The following is a plan to help you internalize the process of building an argument through a series of steps employing verbal, auditory, and tactile skills. The product is an essay **paragraph** that supports an assertion with evidence and analysis. It also will include an emphasis on infusing the historical thinking skill into the analysis.

*Directions:* For this activity you will be working in your groups. **Discuss** the elements of the question in your groups to focus your attention on how to go about answering the question. The first task is to develop a thesis that addresses all parts of the question. This will serve as the foundation to your response and you have been given paper to use as the foundation. After completing your thesis, below it write a good 2-3 sentence contextualization statement. After you have completed your thesis and contextualization, use the following steps to develop your argument tower.

**Step One:** Using the white copy paper write your contextualization followed by your thesis statement.

Now decide which documents best fit in what paragraph.

**Step Two:** Next, Using one of the seven cards with green highlights, on one side summarize one of the documents in your own words (1-2 sentences). Then write an analytical sentence then tells the reader how this document proves your topic sentence. (1-2 sentences) On the back side of the card choose and write 2 HIPPY Statements that HELP SUPPORT YOUR ARGUMENT.

**Step Three:** At the top of each of the six pink highlighted cards, you will write one piece of SPECIFIC HISTORICAL EVIDENCE that supports your argument. That can be about the documents (But not contained in the documents) or outside the documents. You should have 2 pink cards for each paragraph.

**Step Four:** Now that you have written all the necessary components of a solid body paragraph, you will construct your argument tower. You will begin with your topic sentence at the bottom and work your way up to conclusion

**You will have 3 argument towers placed on top of your paper with your thesis and contextualization.**