HOW TO CITE DOCUMENTS IN A DBQ

Document C

Source: Fourth of July, Centre Square, Philadelphia (1819), by John Krimmel

This document is a painting of a 4th of July celebration.

Examples if Citing Documents:
Good: The nation was unified in this era, as seen in the painting of the 4th of July celebrations where people from all over came together to celebrate their country’s founding (Doc C). The end citation is optional because it’s already been stated.
Bad: As we see in Document C, the nation was unified during this era. Cite the document’s source/the document’s real title, not the letter that it was assigned for the DBQ
Ugly: As we see in (Document C), the nation was unified during this era. Parentheses are used incorrectly.

Document B

Source: John C. Calhoun, Congress, February 4, 1817

Let it not be forgotten, let it be forever kept in mind, that the extent of the republic exposes us to the greatest of calamities—disunion. We are great, and rapidly—I was about to say fearfully—growing. This is our price and danger, our weakness and our strength…. Let us, then, bind the republic together with a perfect system of roads and canals. Let us conquer space.

Examples of Citing Documents + Using the Past Tense:
Good: Another example of nationalism was John Calhoun’s insistence in 1817 that the nation needed to become more unified (Doc B). Again, the end citation is optional.
Bad: Another example of nationalism is shown in Document B, where John Calhoun said that the nation needed to unify. Cite the document’s source/the document’s real title, not the letter that it was assigned for the DBQ
Ugly: Another example of nationalism is Document B where John Calhoun says that the nation needs to unify. Use the document’s title, not “document B”; also, “says” needs to be changed to the past tense

Document E

This document is a map entitled “Density of Population, 1820” and show how many people lived per square mile in the United States.

Examples of Citing Documents + Using the Simple Past, not the Past Perfect Tense
Good: According to a population density map from 1820, the nation’s population became denser in the North during the 1820s, in comparison to a southern population density of less than 45 people per square mile during the same time (Doc E). Again, this end citation is optional—note the specific population data.
Bad: The nation’s population became more dense in the North during the 1820s (Doc E).
Ugly: According to document E, the nation’s population was becoming more dense in the North during the 1820s.