

## Document-Based Essay

**Response Topic:** *Was there more continuity or change in the daily life of people living in Victoria before and after the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush?*

**What is a document-based response?:** A DBR is a multi-paragraph response in which the writer is expected to analyze a variety of historical sources, come to a conclusion on a historical question or topic, and write a response that explains the main arguments and supports the arguments with a variety of historical evidence.

### Terminology

<b>Analysis</b>	Involves looking more deeply at an issue by breaking it up into its parts and examining in detail.
<b>Argument</b>	To give reasons for or against a proposal or an idea. The use of logic and evidence to support or refute a point.
<b>Conclusion</b>	A decision made by reasoning. A judgment, decision or belief reached after investigation. A firm answer based on several pieces of evidence.
<b>Evidence</b>	The factual details used to make a judgment or support a conclusion.

**Is there one right answer in a DBR?** While there is no one right answer, there are several plausible (possible) answers and other answers are implausible or highly unlikely. The difference between a plausible and implausible answer depends on the quality of your reasoning and the evidence you provide (from the documents) to support your conclusion.

### Instructions

1. Review your completed activity sheets to decide whether there was more continuity or change when comparing Pre-Gold Rush Victoria and Post-Gold Rush Victoria. The table below outlines the potential conclusions to the question.

Significant continuity	More continuity than change	Equal continuity and change	More change than continuity	Significant change
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2. Identify evidence that supports your conclusion from a variety of documents for various aspects of daily life.
3. Write the response. Record your conclusion at the top of the response (*e.g. Victoria had more continuity than change in daily life between the pre-gold rush and post-gold rush period*). Support your conclusion with evidence from the documents. Indicate where you found the evidence to support your thesis (for example, cite "Pre-Rush Document#1" as PreD1, and "Post-Rush Document #2" as PostD2).