

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

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

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).