**Reconstruction DBQ Prep**

**Step 1: Understand the Prompt:**

Evaluate to what extent Reconstruction was a failure for the newly emancipated blacks in the period from 1865 to 1877.

What is the prompt asking you to do?

What do you need to know or understand in order to respond to this prompt?

About Reconstruction?

About what was going on before?

About what happens after this time period?

**Step 2: Brainstorm what you already know**

**Step 3: Develop a thesis**

Start by thinking about the prompt as a question: Was Reconstruction a failure for African Americans? If so, in what ways? If not, how did it help them?

Then turn this into a well written and clear historical argument which includes your reasons for your thoughts.

Possible Sentence frames (but are not the end all be all!)

While Reconstruction led to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for African Americans, it ultimately was a failure. Then a sentence or 3 about your reasons why it was a failure. The more clarity, the better!

OR

Even though Reconstruction \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (some negative/failure), it did help African Americans in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ way(s). Then a sentence or 3 about your reasons why it helped African Americans. The more clarity, the better!

**Step 4:** Analyze the documents

**Document 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Content | Historical Context |
| Audience | Point of View (author) |
| Purpose | Why is this important? |
| Which of your reasonings does this doc go with? | How does it support what you are saying? |

Document 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Content | Historical Context |
| Audience | Point of View (author) |
| Purpose | Why is this important? |
| Which of your reasonings does this doc go with? | How does it support what you are saying? |

Document 3

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Content | Historical Context |
| Audience | Point of View (author) |
| Purpose | Why is this important? |
| Which of your reasonings does this doc go with? | How does it support what you are saying? |

Document 4

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Content | Historical Context |
| Audience | Point of View (author) |
| Purpose | Why is this important? |
| Which of your reasonings does this doc go with? | How does it support what you are saying? |

Document 5

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Content | Historical Context |
| Audience | Point of View (author) |
| Purpose | Why is this important? |
| Which of your reasonings does this doc go with? | How does it support what you are saying? |

Document 6

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Content | Historical Context |
| Audience | Point of View (author) |
| Purpose | Why is this important? |
| Which of your reasonings does this doc go with? | How does it support what you are saying? |

Document 7

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Content | Historical Context |
| Audience | Point of View (author) |
| Purpose | Why is this important? |
| Which of your reasonings does this doc go with? | How does it support what you are saying? |

**Step 5: Reevaluate your thesis and edit it if necessary to include both outside info and documents**

**Start Writing:**

Introduction Paragraph

What was going on before Reconstruction that relates to why it was a success or a failure for African Americans?

To organize it, think about what historical concept(s) are you focusing on in your argument?

Concept – History’s version of a hook – what is the larger concept and how it relates to the topic?

Era leading up to topic – what was happening right before this event, but keep it relative to the topic!

Topic – what is this topic and guide it

towards your argument

Thesis

The greatest error is not having transitions

between these aspects of your intro!