

# writing a document -based essay

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

When World War I began in Europe in August 1914, the United States declared its neutrality. In practice, however, American trade policies favored the Allied nations. U.S. commerce with Britain and France tripled, while trade with Germany nearly disappeared. In January 1917 Germany started targeting all merchant ships destined for Britain. After German submarines sank several American vessels, the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917. A year and a half later the Allies finally defeated the Central Powers.

## TASK

DUE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of American history, *write an essay in which you:*

- **EXPLAIN** how the United States contributed to the Allied war effort during World War I.
- **Discuss** the role America played in determining the outcome of the conflict.

## DIRECTIONS

Questions? [historyknight@gmail.com](mailto:historyknight@gmail.com)

Using the information from the documents provided and your knowledge of American history, write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, a body of several paragraphs, and a conclusion. In the body of the essay, use examples from at least **four (4)** documents. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

## GUIDELINES

Available Points: 50

In your essay, be sure to:

- **Address** all aspects of the **TASK** by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least **four (4)** documents. You should incorporate (use) the name of the document from which you gleaned (got) the information.
- **Incorporate** information from the documents in the body of the essay.
- **Incorporate** relevant outside information. This will require you to perform research, either online, or using outside books from the library or home.
- **Support** the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details.
- **Use** a logical and clear plan of organization.
- **Introduce** the theme by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple statement of the **Task** or **Historical Context**. Read this sentence again!
- **Conclude** the essay with a summation of the theme.