**DBQ #1 Feedback**

* **Use third person voice only. No “I” or “you”**
  + Don’t: “*I know that* John Rolfe helped make Virginia economically viable through the growth of tobacco.”
  + Do: “John Rolfe helped make Virginia economically viable through the growth of tobacco.”
* **Be definitive, not speculative**
  + Don’t: “This *might be* because Puritans believed in predestination and the idea of ‘visible saints.’”
  + Don’t: “This *was* because Puritans believed in predestination and the idea of ‘visible saints.’”
* **Confusion as to religious ideas… Review your denominations tree & colonial religions chart**
  + Puritans are not Separatists
  + Anglicans are not Catholics
  + Puritans came seeking freedom of religion for themselves, but did *not* believe in freedom of religion for non-Puritans
* **Make sure you have a clear thesis. This is the foundation for your entire essay.**
* **Use all (or almost all) of the documents.**
* **Analyze the content of the documents. Don’t merely restate what the document says in your own words. Tie the document into related documents and outside information.**
  + Example: Bacon’s Rebellion document
    - Don’t: Say Bacon was unhappy.
    - Do: Use this document to discuss expansion of the colony, tobacco export economy, Indian trade and warfare, indentured servitude, transition to racialized chattel slavery, colonial government, short lifespan, gender imbalance, etc. Also use it to contrast with corresponding social, political and economic issues New England.
* **Avoid identifying commonalities in this particular essay, or at least use them to draw out further distinctions. This essay is about contrasting regions, not commonalities.**
  + Don’t: “The Puritans fought the Pequots and the Chesapeake settlers fought the Powhatans.”
  + Do: “While both the Puritans and the Chesapeake settlers fought local Indian tribes, they did so for different reasons. In the Chesapeake, the tobacco economy rapidly exhausted the soil, leading settlers to encroach further inland onto Indian territory. In New England, land lust played a smaller role, with religion being more important. After the failure of several Indian ‘praying town’ missionary attempts, the Puritans decided it would be easier to kill the Indians than convert and coexist with them.”
* **Contrast and explain why two different societies emerged. Don’t simply describe the societies.**
* **Be sure to include a brief conclusion**
* **Visit my website to see scoring guidelines and sample student responses to DBQs from past APUSH exams.**