The 10 Commandments of AP Historical Writing

1. Thou shalt not write in the 1st person
2. Thou shalt not quote from the documents
3. Thou shalt not refer to the documents as “document 2 says…”
   1. Thou shalt refer to the author/source of the document “John Calvin says…”
4. Thou shalt answer the question
5. Thou shalt not ask rhetorical questions
6. Thou shalt handwrite all essays using a pen
7. Thou shalt use the documents/evidence/facts to support your points
8. Thou shalt not overuse the word “bias”.
   1. It should be used sparingly and only if clearly evident.
   2. Use “point of view” or “perspective” instead
9. Thou shalt use parenthetical references (doc 5)
10. Thou shalt not simply restate the question as your thesis
    1. Your thesis must answer the question