With DBQuest, iCivics expands its collection of digital literacy tools designed to support the skills needed to read and understand complex texts.

DBQuest introduces students to major questions in civics and history. They are given a Big Question to use as a guiding light to examine three selected primary resources. Each document challenges students to dig into the text itself and find the relevant information through document-based supporting questions.

The tool takes students through the same four steps for each source:

1. Rate the document for usefulness and determine perspective
2. Identify and analyze the text and visual elements that assist with answering the questions
3. Address the supporting questions in your own words
4. Summarize your findings as a response to the Big Question

Students and their teachers are able to select between two modes—Guided and Freeform. The Guided experience provides scaffolding throughout the tool, while Freeform offers students the same elements of tool without the additional assistance. Both allow students to produce a thoughtful analysis of the resources provided.