

# DBQ Methodology

- A Data Based Question demands an essay response. A DBQ is an essay that **answers a question using documents to support the answer to the question, along with other evidence**. This answer must also include an **analysis of the values and limitations of the document**.
- The documents are there in service to the answer and the values and limitations of these documents **must** be discussed in the essay. Basic responses will use phrases like ‘the source is useful because...’ or ‘however there are limitations because...’ whereas stronger responses will **integrate this analysis throughout the essay**.
- **Geography DBQ responses can point out which voices are not named or heard in a document. They can consider what is the value of a map for example and should use the issue of scale on maps as a limitation, *provided this is explained* (could consider what is happening at a bigger scale not shown on the map).**

## Contextualizing

It is not necessary to mention the documents in the introduction (although it is possible). The first time you use a document, contextualize it by giving the type of document, the year, and the main idea. Explain the context briefly. Address in your essay how the documents connect both to their context and the period in which they were produced.

## Supporting

Use the documents throughout your essay to support your points as much as you can! **However, there is no need to quote extensively from them**. You do not have to use the documents in every paragraph. Careful! Don’t use the very French “we can see”.

~~As we can see in Document One, ...~~ → As shown in Document One...

~~We can observe in Document Two that...~~ → Document Two depicts ...

## Analyzing

When you use the documents for support, link your observations to outside knowledge, and *analyze* their values and limitations.

**Values are what can be observed in the document that add to understanding.**

**Always link what you see in the document to your evidence. Use the document to prove your argument.**

**The limitations are what is absent from the source and the bias inherent within it.** Absence of information in a source can be very telling and help you to advance your argument and analyze a situation. **Bias** must also be identified but you must explain **how it** is a limitation. Link your limitations to outside knowledge and evidence as well. Use them as a springboard to other points that connect to your thesis.

If you aren't 100% sure about your assertion and don't want to seem overconfident, then use a modal construction such as "could be" or "may be".

# Data Based Question (DBQ)

- i) Using the documents and your own knowledge answer the following question: To what extent can urban segregation be discerned in NYC?
- ii) Discuss the values and limitations of the documents in your essay.

## Document 1

### Opinion: How Exclusionary Zoning Perpetuates Segregation in New York

By Braden Crooks.

- Published March 31, 2023

Racist policies of the past designed the segregated, unequal landscape we live with today, and exclusionary zoning perpetuates it.

In the 2020 Census, the New York City metro area was found to be running just behind Milwaukee and Detroit as the third most segregated region of the country according to Black-white segregation data. This is not by accident. Federal, state and local policy intentionally created a landscape of exclusionary, homogenous areas alongside more diverse and often more disinvested cities, towns and neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods were coded “red” as hazardous for investment on 1930s federal redlining maps with starkly blatant language such as, “detrimental influences: Negro infiltration.” At the same time, the Federal Housing Administration created an underwriting manual that would go far beyond the maps. They instructed mortgage-issuing banks to look out for “whether incompatible racial and social groups are present, for the purpose of making a prediction regarding the probability of the location being invaded by such groups. If a neighborhood is to retain stability, it is necessary that properties shall continue to be occupied by the same social and racial classes.”

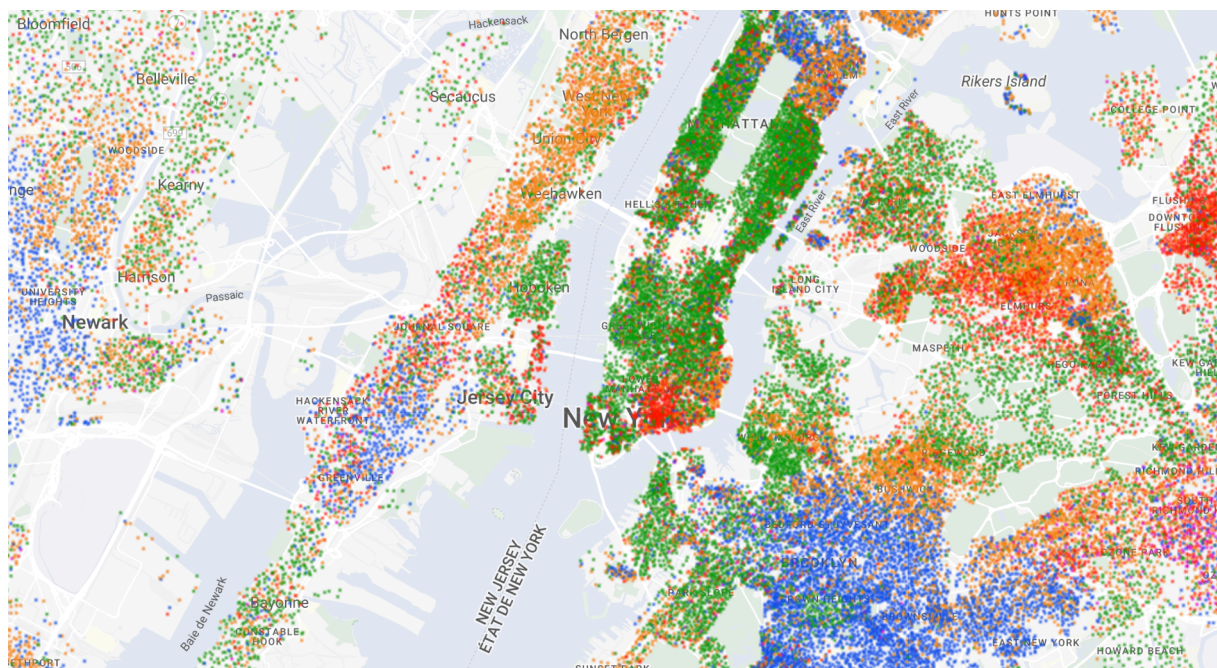
The real estate industry itself was even more direct in their language. An example from a real estate textbook predates federal redlining policy, and echos the same sentiments: “The colored people certainly have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but they must recognize the economic disturbance their presence in a white neighborhood causes, and forgo their desire to split off from the established district where the rest of their race lives.”

By the 1970s, after the implementation of the 1968 Fair Housing Act made this explicit racism in housing illegal, restrictions on zoning density, lot size, height requirements and more increased dramatically in suburban areas. Fast forward to 2023, and these policies have in effect preserved many towns and neighborhoods exclusively for wealthier, often whiter residents.

<https://citylimits.org/2023/03/31/opinion-how-exclusionary-zoning-perpetuates-segregation-in-new-york/>

## Document 2

### Mapping Segregation in NYC



#### Map Key

One dot = 120 people

#### CENSUS GROUP

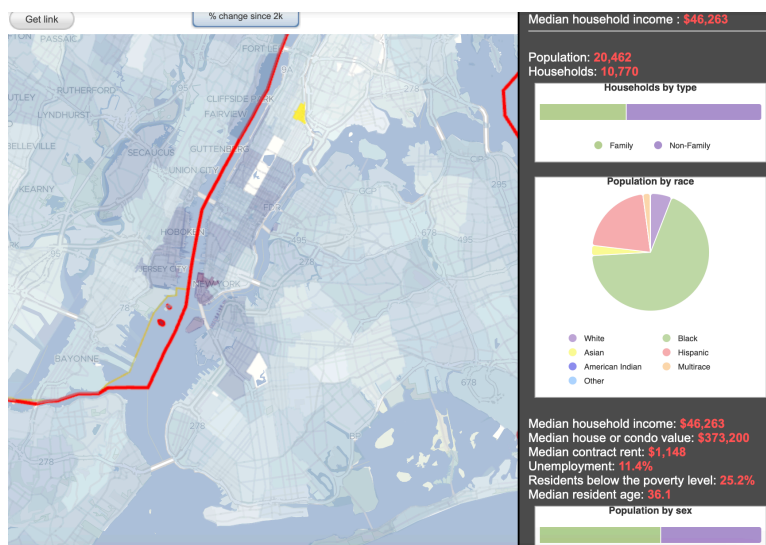
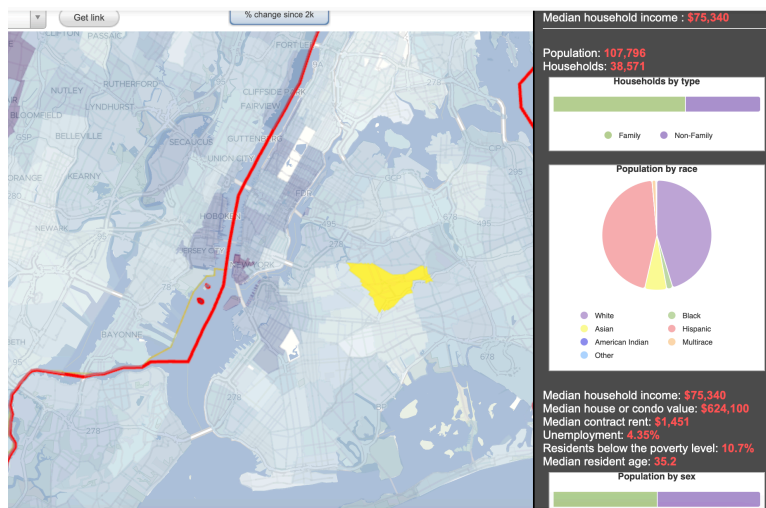
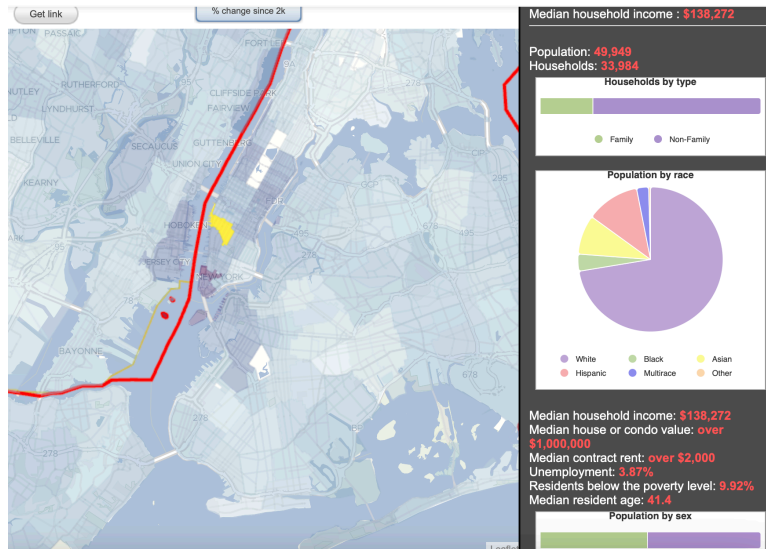
- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian
- White
- Others

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/07/08/us/census-race-map.html>

Accessed 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023



## Document 3: Median Household Income in NYC (Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx)



<https://www.city-data.com/income/income-New-York-New-York.html#>

Accessed 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

(continued from previous page)

The median household income in New York, NY in 2021 was \$67,997, which was 9.3% less than the median annual income of \$74,314 across the entire state of New York. Compared to the median income of \$38,293 in 2000 this represents an increase of 43.7%. The per capita income in 2021 was \$42,406, which means an increase of 47.2% compared to 2000 when it was \$22,402.

Data from 2000 / 2021 when the population of New York, New York was 8,008,278 / 8,467,513

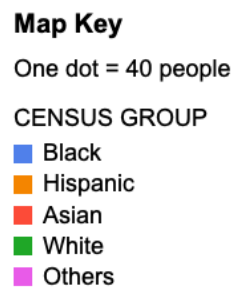


<https://www.city-data.com/income/income-New-York-New-York.html>

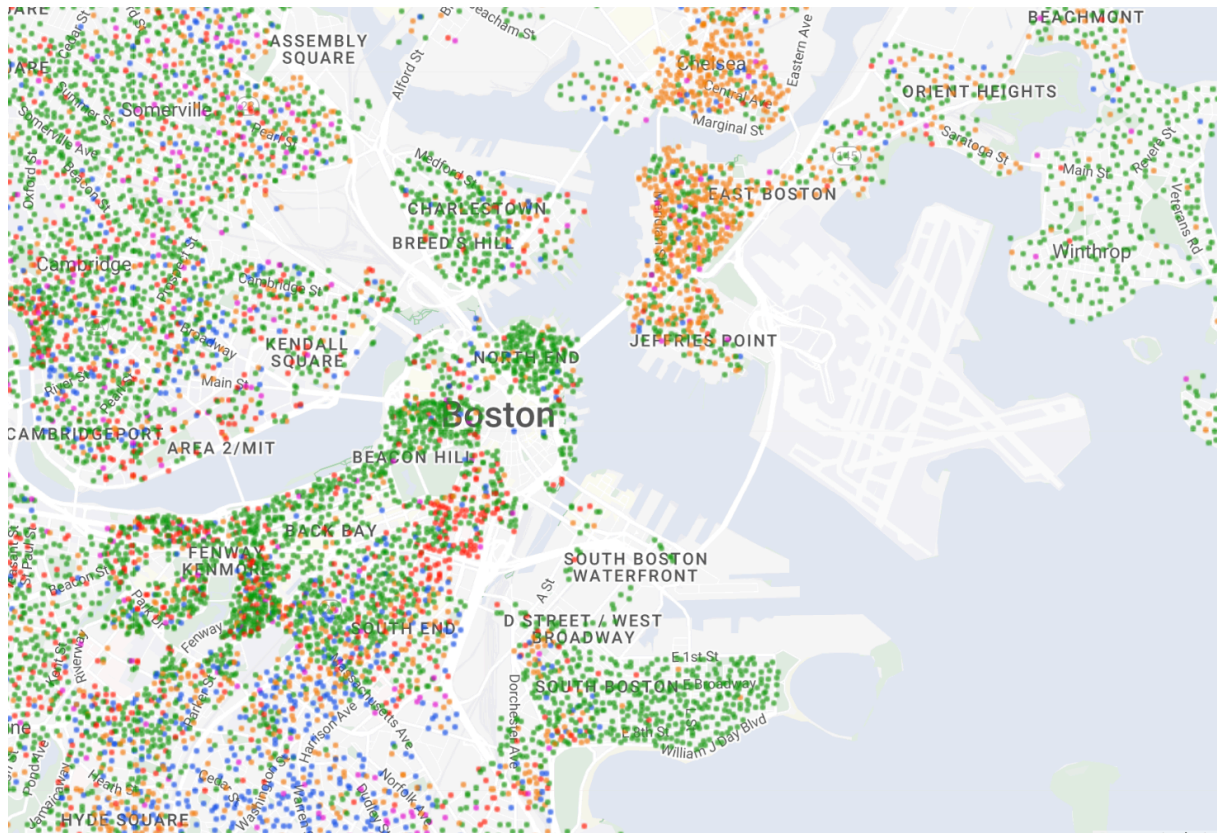
Accessed 30 November 2023



## Mapping Segregation in Baltimore



## Mapping Segregation in Boston



### Map Key

One dot = 60 people

#### CENSUS GROUP

- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian
- White
- Others