

Northwest History Consortium

Vietnam Draft

Darrick Hayman
11th Grade

National Standard

Era 9: Postwar United States (1945-1970s) / Standard 2

Standard 2: How the Cold War and conflicts in Korea and Vietnam influenced domestic and international politics

BACKGROUND

By 1968 much of the United States was turning against the war in Vietnam. One of the more contentious issues was over the government's use of the draft. Some Americans chose to avoid the draft by going to jail or running to Canada.

PROBLEM

The chances of being drafted for current students is very unlikely. However, this was an influential event in contemporary American history. This scenario can place students in the position of a draftee.

SCENARIO

You went to the mailbox today and discovered an official-looking letter addressed to you. The letter directs you to report to Fort Dix, New Jersey for induction into the US Army. You understand that you will probably be shipped off to fight in Vietnam after you complete basic training. You do have some options. One of your friends from school was so against the war that he refused to serve and ran to Canada to avoid being sent to war. Another friend got his draft notice and went to the war, but he was killed. What are you going to do?

TASK

Write a two-page letter to your draft board explaining your decision to either report for induction or your plans to leave the country. Indicate specific evidence to support your decision.

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RESOURCES

Books

Lind, Michael. Vietnam the Necessary: A Reinterpretation of America's Most Disastrous Military Conflict. New York, NY: Free Press, 1999.

O'Brien, Tim. The Things They Carried. Chicago, IL: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.

Internet

"Introduction" from *Department of the Army Historical Summary: Fiscal Year 1971*, edited by William Gardner Bell. 1973. US Army Center of Military History. 9 August 2004. Washington, DC. 22 March 2011 <<http://www.history.army.mil/books/DAHSUM/1971/chI.htm>>.

Kramer, Don. "Answering the Call - Army's Oldest Vietnam Era Draftee Prepares to Deploy Again." 5 June 2008. US Army (Army.mil). 2011. Washington, DC. 22 March 2011 <<http://www.army.mil/-news/2008/06/05/9690-answering-the-call---armys-oldest-vietnam-era-draftee-prepares-to-deploy-again/>>.

Pressler, Larry. "The Technicality Generation" from *The New York Times* 18 May 2010. New York Times.com. ©2010 The New York Times Company. New York, NY. 22 March 2011 <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/19/opinion/19pressler.html?_r=1>.

Waldron, Martin. "Clay Guilty in Draft Case; Gets Five Years in Prison" *The New York Times* 20 June 1967. New York Times.com. ©2010 The New York Times Company. New York, NY. 22 March 2011 <<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/0620.html#article>>.

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ASSESSMENT

Letter-Writing : Vietnam Draft

Teacher Name: _____

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Ideas	Ideas were expressed in a clear and organized fashion. It was easy to figure out what the letter was about.	Ideas were expressed in a pretty clear manner, but the organization could have been better.	Ideas were somewhat organized, but were not very clear. It took more than one reading to figure out what the letter was about.	The letter seemed to be a collection of unrelated sentences. It was very difficult to figure out what the letter was about.
Content Accuracy	The letter contains at least 3 accurate facts about your choice.	The letter contains 2 accurate facts about your choice.	The letter contains 1 accurate fact about your choice.	The letter contains no accurate facts about your choice.
Grammar & spelling (conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar and/or spelling.
Sentences & Paragraphs	Sentences and paragraphs are complete, well-constructed and of varied structure.	All sentences are complete and well-constructed (no fragments, no run-ons). Paragraphing is generally done well.	Most sentences are complete and well-constructed. Paragraphing needs some work.	Many sentence fragments or run-on sentences OR paragraphing needs lots of work.

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REFERENCES/CITATIONS

ALTEC. "Rubistar: Create Rubrics for you Project-Based Learning Activities: Letter-Writing." [4Teachers.org](http://4teachers.org). 2009. Lawrence, KS. Advanced Learning Technologies Consortia (ALTEC) at the University of Kansas. 22 March 2011 <http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=CustomizeTemplate&bank_rubric_id=34§ion_id=5>. Adapted by Darrick Hayman for the Northwest History Consortium with permission.

"History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States." [UCLA National Center for History in the Schools](http://nchs.ucla.edu/standards/us-standards5). 2005. Los Angeles, CA. 22 March 2011 <<http://nchs.ucla.edu/standards/us-standards5>>.

Hayman, Michael. "Vietnam Draft." [NWESD Organization](http://www.nwesd.org). 2008. Anacortes, WA. 22 March 2011 <http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/9.2_VietnamDraft.Hayman.11.pdf>.