

Vietnam Essay

People have long debated whether the study of history can provide useful lessons to guide future behavior. The American philosopher George Santayana warned that “those who cannot remember the lessons of the past are condemned to repeat it.” Nations, it is argued, learn lessons from history.

America’s involvement in Vietnam spanned nearly 30 years and 5 American presidents. It was one of the longest and most unsuccessful wars in our history. In the end, over 58,000 American soldiers were killed, 300,000 wounded and the United States spent \$111 billion during the 8 years of the war, from 1964-1972 (which adjusted for inflation, is more than \$494 billion.) The war also polarized the nation. Given these facts...



The essay question:

What 2 lessons do you feel America should take away from our experience in Vietnam?

Paper Requirements:

- This is a **4 paragraph essay** ONLY. You will write an intro paragraph, TWO supporting body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Length: NO LESS THAN 1 ½ pages in length.
- All papers must be typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font.
- All sources must be cited in footnote form. If you have not yet figured out how to do this – ASK FOR HELP!
- Your response to the above question should clearly explain the origins of the lesson itself AND support it with specific, detailed evidence from the unit. The evidence for your paper should be rooted in specific U.S. actions during the Vietnam War.
- Your sources should include information presented in class (Powerpoint, class notes, videos, etc.) and readings. (No additional research is necessary for this paper.)

Deadlines:

Completed outlines (on Google Classroom): shown to me by the end of class on Thursday, April 4th

Final papers due: Monday, April 8th

We will have class time the week of April 1st to work on the essay.

Pre-Writing

Directions: To get you started on your essay, please begin brainstorming below. Consider the various things we've studied in class so far and what lessons you take away from our actions in Vietnam.

Lessons Learned in Vietnam

Evidence to support the two reasons I've selected: