

1960s Oral History

Due: _____

Points: _____

Standard Addressed: 11.8/11.9

The 1960s was a tumultuous time in U.S. history. So much was going on from the Vietnam War, to the Civil Rights Movement, to the invasion of the Beatles. In order to gain a better understanding of the decade, you will interview somebody who lived through it!

Objective: To understand and analyze post-WWII America society, including culture and foreign policy. (The great thing about oral histories is that our class is very diverse, so there will be many different perspectives.)

Task: You will interview somebody (parent/guardian) who lived through and remembers the 1960s. You will find out everything they know about the 1960s by asking them the guiding questions listed below, as well as any other relevant questions you can come up with. Then, you will summarize your findings in 2 page summary explaining what you found out from the interview.

Guiding Questions

Facts First:

- Name; where you were born; where you lived; family size.
- How would you describe your upbringing?

1960s:

- Who were the popular musicians from the 1960s? Who were your favorite musicians/groups? Favorite song?
- What was TV like in the 1960s? Favorite shows? Why? Any movies stand out?
- Sports fan? Who were the big names in sports? Favorites?
- What was technology like back then? Cars, phones, planes, everyday living, etc.
- What do you remember about the Vietnam War? Why was the U.S. involved (opinions are fine)? Where you involved? In what capacity? Any family or friends deploy to Vietnam? Feelings/thoughts?
- What do you know about the counter culture movement? Woodstock?
- Remember JFK and his presidency? His assassination? What about LBJ and Nixon's presidencies?
- What do you remember about the Cuban Missile Crisis?

- **What do you remember about the Civil Rights Movement? The violence and protests? MLK assassination? What do you remember feeling/thinking?**
- **Overall, how would you describe the 1960s. Did the decade change you? How?**
- **What's the single most important thing that came of the 1960s? Why?**
- **What's the biggest difference between the 1960s and today?**
- **Anything else would you like to share about the 1960s?**

Paper: Type up a summary of the interview in at least 2 full pages. (feel free to write more) 12 pt. font, times new roman, double spaced. Include in your paper the most important thing you learned about the 1960s from the interview.