

# **“Voices of Vietnam” Lesson Plan**

## Episode 1, Part 1 -- Trauma & the Vietnam War

### **3 CENTRAL HISTORICAL QUESTIONS:**

- How is war traumatic?
- How should soldiers use their personal moral codes on the battlefield?
- What did America do wrong during and immediately after the Vietnam War?

### Content Knowledge:

#### **Virginia Standards of Learning -- Curriculum Frameworks (2015)**

-World History II (10th Grade) - Standard WHII.12c

[\(Link to WHII Curriculum Framework\)](#)

-Virginia & U.S. History (11th Grade) - Standards VUS.12c, VUS.12d

[\(Link to VUS Curriculum Framework\)](#)

### Materials:

- Recording of Episode 1, Part 1: [www.withgoodreasonradio.org/vietnam](http://www.withgoodreasonradio.org/vietnam)
- Speakers to amplify recordings for class listening session
- [Online Timeline \(from history.com\)](#) & PDF version lives [here](#)

Expected length: Two 40-minute class meetings

### Teacher plan for instruction:

- 1) Have students access Online Timeline, if they need background knowledge on the Vietnam War.
- 2) Introduce Central Historical Question. Hand out the Listening Guides.
- 3) Listen to each of the six clips. It is recommended that you work through the vocabulary and the questions together as a class for at least the first clip, so that you can model what to do. After Clip #1, you can choose to listen to the others as a whole class, divide students into small groups, or have students do the remaining clips independently.
- 4) After students complete the Listening Guides, they choose one of the three assignments from the final product menu

***\*NOTE ON HOW TO USE: Revise or adapt to fit your needs. A copy of all organizers can be found at the end of the lesson plan.***

STUDENT HANDOUT - Ep. 1, Pt. 1

FINAL PRODUCT MENU

- Write a paragraph that answers one of the Central Historical Questions, using three specific ideas from the clips in your response.

*-How is war traumatic?*

*-How should soldiers use their personal moral codes on the battlefield?*

*-What did America do wrong during and immediately after the Vietnam War?*

- Write a letter of apology on behalf of the American government to one of the three veterans featured in the clips. Mention 3 specific ideas from the clips for supporting details. Use the three Central Historical Questions to spark ideas.
- Sketch the design for a monument that pays tribute to one of the veterans mentioned in the clips. Integrate 1 visual symbol from their story and 2 quotes from their clip into the monument. Use the three Central Historical Questions to spark ideas.

STUDENT HANDOUT - Ep. 1, Pt. 1

Clip #1 -- [Start: 0:20](#), [Stop: 1:39](#)

Main character: Ron Ritter, Vietnam War veteran

Directions: First, listen to the clip above, spoken by the character above. Then, answer the questions below.

VOCABULARY

**trauma**

- Definition:
- Use word in sentence:

**Viet Cong**

- Definition:
- Use word in sentence:

GUIDING QUESTIONS

**Comprehension questions:**

- 1) When did Ritter ship off to Vietnam, and how old was he?
- 2) How long did he fight in Vietnam?
- 3) Why did the police at the airport tell Ritter not to go outside in uniform?

**Analysis questions:**

- 4) Why do you think anti-war protestors used the Viet Cong flag?
- 5) Why do you think anti-war protestors targeted soldiers returning home?
- 6) If you were Ritter, how would seeing the protestors affect how you viewed your home country of America?

STUDENT HANDOUT - Ep. 1, Pt. 1

Clip #2 -- Start: 1:58, Stop: 3:28

Main character: Wilbur Scott, Vietnam War veteran

Directions: First, listen to the clip above, spoken by the character above. Then, answer the questions below.

VOCABULARY

**Ho Chi Minh Trail**

- Definition:
  
- Use word in sentence:

**conventional**

- Definition:
  
- Use word in sentence:

GUIDING QUESTIONS

**Comprehension questions:**

- 1) In what years did Scott lead his platoon in Vietnam?
  
- 2) Why did the North Vietnamese soldiers use the “hugging the belt strategy”?

**Analysis questions:**

- 3) Why was Scott’s platoon’s job to “count bodies”? Why was this important?
  
- 4) If you knew that your job as a soldier was to “bait” the enemy into a fight over and over again, how would that affect your mind?

STUDENT HANDOUT - Ep. 1, Pt. 1

Clip #3 -- Start: 4:30, Stop: 5:23

Main character: Wilbur Scott, Vietnam War veteran

Directions: First, listen to the clip above, spoken by the character above. Then, answer the questions below.

VOCABULARY

**frantic**

- Definition:
- Use word in sentence:

**“Army Times”**

- Definition:
- Use word in sentence:

GUIDING QUESTIONS

**Comprehension questions:**

- 1) What feeling did Scott have again and again when he first returned home?
- 2) What did Scott read in the “Army Times”?

**Analysis question:**

- 3) Why would Scott rather be back on the battlefield than at home, where he is no longer in danger?

STUDENT HANDOUT - Ep. 1, Pt. 1

Clip #4 -- [Start: 5:25](#), [Stop: 9:49](#)

Main character: Wilbur Scott, Vietnam War veteran

Directions: First, listen to the clip above, spoken by the character above. Then, answer the questions below.

VOCABULARY

**suppress**

- Definition:
  
- Use word in sentence:

**Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**

- Definition:
  
- Use word in sentence:

GUIDING QUESTIONS

**Comprehension questions:**

- 1) With whom did Scott get into his first fight, and how did it start?
  
- 2) Why did Scott shut down his memories of the Vietnam War?
  
- 3) What motivated Scott to get treatment?
  
- 4) During the Vietnam War, how did psychiatrists try to treat soldiers who had come home from war?

**Analysis questions:**

- 5) Why do people suppress bad memories? Is it a good or bad thing to do? Explain your opinion.

STUDENT HANDOUT - Ep. 1, Pt. 1

Clip #5 -- [Start: 11:31](#), [Stop: 15:54](#)

Main character: Mike Lemon, Vietnam War veteran

Directions: First, listen to the clip above, spoken by the character above. Then, answer the questions below.

VOCABULARY

**moral injury**

- Definition:
  
- Use word in sentence:

**hooch**

- Definition:
  
- Use word in sentence:

GUIDING QUESTIONS

**Comprehension questions:**

- 1) In what years did Lemon fight in the Vietnam War?
  
- 2) What was Lemon's job during the Vietnam War?
  
- 3) What did Lemon do to the North Vietnamese enemy soldier he found?

**Analysis question:**

- 4) Was Lemon wrong for how he handled the situation with the enemy soldier?  
Explain your opinion.

STUDENT HANDOUT - Ep. 1, Pt. 1

Clip #6 -- [Start: 22:25](#), [Stop: 27:10](#)

Main character: Fred Turner, Stanford University professor

Directions: First, listen to the clip above, spoken by the character above. Then, answer the questions below.

VOCABULARY

**collective trauma**

- Definition:
  
- Use word in sentence:

**My Lai Massacre**

- Definition:
  
- Use word in sentence:

GUIDING QUESTIONS

**Comprehension questions:**

- 1) What has America struggled to acknowledge about the Vietnam War?
  
- 2) What does Turner suggest to help the suffering and division caused by the Vietnam War?
  
- 3) According to Turner, what is America's challenge involving the Vietnam War?

**Analysis question:**

- 4) Is it helpful for America to revisit bad decisions made by its government? Won't that make citizens trust their government less? Explain your opinion.