“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:

- 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
- 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.
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?
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?
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?
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.
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.
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.