

Student Handout
Oakland Museum of California
What's Going On? California and the Vietnam Era
Lesson Plan #2

1968: Year of Social Change and Turning Point in Vietnam and the U.S.

1968 Oral History Project

Each research team of four to seven students will complete an oral history project comprised of the following:

- At least two event/era-focused interviews from two of the three focus areas (Vietnam War, Civil Rights and Black Panther Party, Politics) or opposing views in one focus area. It would be good to draw on different perspectives and different points of view, on the issues of the period.
- Field journal notes
- Short one-page narrative based on field journal notes
- Transcription of several interview portions
- Reflective journal entry: Self-Assessment of Interview Debriefing
- Oral history narrative

In order to work efficiently, each research team will select individual members, based on their leadership strengths and talents, for these responsibilities:

- Producer/Facilitator: Responsible for guiding the team in carrying out the oral history process described below
- Interviewers
- Transcribers
- Debriefing Discussion Leaders
- Presentation Designers: Fitting the oral histories within their historical contexts to form coherent and compelling narratives that answer the interview's guiding questions.
- Presenters: Reading from or telling the coherent and compelling narratives that answer the interview's guiding question
- Timekeeper: Helping the producer divide allocated class time and homework time into realistic time chunks for the tasks' completion, and breathing fire into presentation designers to forge coherent and compelling oral history narratives on time

The Time Element to this Oral History Project

You do not have a lot of time. You must be willing to work cohesively as a team, using each other's strengths to get different parts of the job done. Be willing to work outside of class, after school, in the evening, at each other's houses or apartments.

Real Work for a Real Audience

Hopefully, your teacher has invited parents, other teachers, community members, and maybe even the local press to hear your presentations.

