

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.

Oral History Process and Resources

1. Review the oral history process, “How to do an oral history about the impact of the Vietnam Era” found on RE: Vietnam Stories Since the War at <http://www.pbs.org/pov/stories/vietnam/curriculum.html>.
 - Pay attention to the interview process (Pre-Interview Tasks, Setting Up Interviews, During the Interview, and After the Interview).
 - In the pre-interview review and discussion, review the chronology, themes, key figures, and issues surrounding the focus area and specific events about which the person you interview has experience and memories.
 - In planning the interview questions, remember to ask open-ended rather than specific questions (for example, “What do you remember about...” or “Tell me about...”). During the interview, remember that the best questions emerge from the interview (for example, “Why,” “How,” “Can you tell me more about...”).
 - Do practice interviews with your teammates.
 - Select the two people your team will interview based on their experiences with events you have become familiar with in 1968, concerning either the Vietnam War and the Tet Offensive, the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Panther Party, or Politics.
 - Don’t forget permission forms (from your school, district, or a class-generated form).
 - Equipment for recording the interviews can be high tech like camcorders, essential tech like tape recorders, and old-fashioned technology — the note-taker.
 - Remember that what happens after the interview is just as important as preparing for and doing the interview. Pay attention to Notes/Outlines, Transcribing, Interpretation, and Presenting the Interview.

2. Refer to specific recommendations for doing oral histories from the Oakland Museum of California resource, *Collecting Community History: A Training Handbook for Educators*.
 - “Advice for Conducting an Oral History Interview,” page 88
 - “Locating Individuals for Oral History Interviews,” page 90
 - “Debriefing an Interview,” pages 92-94
 - “Narrative Writing Introduction and Practice,” pages 99-101



3. Review models of one or several written narratives based on interviews on The Whole World Is Watching website at <http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/1968/index.html>
 - Go to <http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/1968/narrators/M.DUTILLY.html> for the narrative of Marj Dutilly's story as a nurse in Vietnam, and click on the electronic transcript of the interview.
 - Go back to the Student Handout, "Recommended Websites for Internet Research," and refer to the other web pages from this website under Politics.

4. Finally, for those of you with filmmaking and editing equipment experience, be willing, in the editing process, to use portions of your interviews as voice-overs while showing photographs from Oakland Museum of California's Picture This: California Perspectives on American History website at <http://www.museumca.org/picturethis/index.html> . You can also add music from the period as background or between narrative sections where you would also show photographs.

