War and Dissent

Trace how a war connected two different movements

9-12.US2.31 "Describe the relationships between the Vietnam War, the counterculture movement, and the anti-war movement."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways the Vietnam War helped spark opposition, circle two ways people in the counterculture spread anti-war ideas, and number two details that show the anti-war movement extended beyond the counterculture.

When Opposition Grew

1. In 1965, a young American watching the evening news might see U.S. troops fighting in Vietnam and then hear that more troops were being sent. Leaders argued that supporting South Vietnam would help stop the spread of communism. As the war expanded, the draft required many young men to serve, while others volunteered. Television reports and newspaper coverage brought the fighting into homes, although no single broadcast could explain the whole war. The growing cost in lives and money led more Americans to question whether U.S. involvement was justified. Those questions helped fuel organized opposition to the war.

2. During the same years, a counterculture took shape among some young Americans who challenged familiar rules about dress, music, authority, and everyday life. Many rejected the idea that obedience to leaders was automatically patriotic. Because the Vietnam War involved a draft and official claims about progress, it became a powerful focus for some counterculture groups. At music gatherings and on college campuses, songs, posters, and public performances carried anti-war messages. Yet the counterculture was not one organization, and not everyone in it opposed the war. Some people embraced its music or clothing without joining protests.

3. The anti-war movement was wider than the counterculture. Students, veterans, religious leaders, and parents marched, wrote letters, or asked elected officials to change course. Some wore counterculture styles; others dressed conventionally and defended traditional civic values. Shared opposition to the war did not mean agreement about every part of American life. Protesters pointed to casualties, the draft, and doubts about the government's account of the war, while their demonstrations drew attention to those concerns. Public pressure did not end the war by itself, but it made Vietnam a major issue in national politics as leaders debated U.S. policy.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the draft connect the Vietnam War to growing opposition?

2. Why did the war become a focus for some counterculture groups, and how did they share their views?

3. How did the anti-war movement overlap with the counterculture, and how was it broader?

4. How did anti-war activity affect discussion of U.S. policy, according to the passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word letter to a local newspaper set in 1969. Show how the war brings together two people who disagree about counterculture, and propose one anti-war action they could take together. Include an accurate detail from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

War and Dissent

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.US2.31

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways the Vietnam War helped spark opposition, circle two ways people in the counterculture spread anti-war ideas, and number two details that show the anti-war movement extended beyond the counterculture. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the draft connect the Vietnam War to growing opposition?	**As the war expanded, the draft required many young men to serve. It became one reason people questioned or protested U.S. involvement.**
2	Why did the war become a focus for some counterculture groups, and how did they share their views?	**Some groups questioned obedience to leaders and challenged official claims about the war. They shared anti-war messages through songs, posters, and public performances.**
3	How did the anti-war movement overlap with the counterculture, and how was it broader?	**Some counterculture participants joined anti-war protests, but the movement also included veterans, religious leaders, parents, and others who did not share counterculture styles or values.**
4	How did anti-war activity affect discussion of U.S. policy, according to the passage?	**Demonstrations drew attention to protesters' concerns, and public pressure helped make Vietnam a major issue in national politics.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To the editor: My neighbor and I disagree about long hair and loud music, but we both worry about the draft and the lives lost in Vietnam. I attend concerts where musicians speak against the war; she prefers writing to elected officials. We plan to host a public meeting where families and veterans can explain their concerns. We do not need to share a style or every belief to ask our representatives to reconsider U.S. involvement.

Accept different passage-supported causes of opposition and forms of protest. For the letter, look for a clear connection through opposition to the war without treating counterculture and the anti-war movement as identical.