

Northwest History Consortium

Vietnam POWs

Jill Gliko
11th Grade

National Standard

Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the present) / Standard 2

Standard 2: Economic, social, and cultural developments in contemporary United States

BACKGROUND

Trouble had been brewing in Vietnam since the end of World War II. The United States had troops in Vietnam from 1961-1973, first as military advisors and then as combatants. By 1965 the North Vietnamese were capturing American soldiers and holding them as prisoners of war. According to official government records, there were 761 American POWs during the Vietnam War. Of those, 114 were killed while imprisoned. No POWs were rescued during the war. In 1972, as part of Operation Homecoming, 591 POWs were released and brought home to the United States.

SCENARIO

It is March 22, 1970 and the Vietnam War is in full swing. You are a White House assistant to the President of the United States, who has just found out that there are many American POWs being held in Vietnam and that the military is doing little to nothing about rescuing these soldiers, even though they know the location of the camps and that there are American soldiers being held there. The US President is enraged and fears that if the general public hears about this his reputation will be tarnished.

TASK

The US President assigns you to research the location of the known POW camps and determine if the military has the ability to free some of the POWs based on their location and the military's capabilities. You will then need to submit a report to the President of the United States presenting your findings and stating your opinion about how the POW issue should be handled.

RESOURCES

Books

Anton, Frank. Why Didn't You Get Me Out? A POW's Nightmare in Vietnam. New York, NY: St. Martin's Paperbacks, 2000.

Rowe, James N. Five Years to Freedom: The True Story of a Vietnam POW. New York, NY: Presidio Press, 1984.

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Internet

Gavin, Philip. "The Vietnam War." 1999. The History Place. ©1996 - 2010. Boston, MA. 29 November 2010 <<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/vietnam/index.html>>.

"Maps: Vietnam from 1945 to the Postwar." 29 March 2005. PBS Online (WGBH). ©1996 - 2010. Boston, MA. 29 November 2010 <<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/maps/index.html>>.

"POW Prisons in North Vietnam." 1996. PBS Online (WGBH). ©1999 - 2010. Boston, MA. 29 November 2010 <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/honor/sfeature/sf_prisons.html>.

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ASSESSMENT

Persuasive Essay: Vietnam POWs

CATEGORY	4 Above Standards	3 Meets Standards	2 Approaching Standards	1 Below Standards	Score
Position Statement	The position statement provides a clear, strong statement of the author's position on the topic.	The position statement provides a clear statement of the author's position on the topic.	A position statement is present, but it does not make the author's position clear.	There is no position statement.	
Evidence and Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.	
Closing Paragraph	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. Effective restatement of the position statement begins the closing paragraph.	The conclusion is recognizable. The author's position is restated within the first two sentences of the closing paragraph.	The author's position is restated within the closing paragraph, but not near the beginning.	There is no conclusion - the paper just ends.	
Grammar & Spelling	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	

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REFERENCES/CITATIONS

ALTEC. "Rubistar: Create Rubrics for your Project-Based Learning Activities." 4Teachers.org. 2009. Lawrence, KS. Advanced Learning Technologies Consortia (ALTEC) at the University of Kansas. 29 Nov. 2010 <http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=CustomizeTemplate&bank_rubric_id=15§ion_id=6>. Adapted by Jill Gliko for the Northwest History Consortium with permission.

Gliko, Jill. "Vietnam POWs." NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 29 November 2010 <http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/10.2_Vietnam.POWs.Gliko.11.pdf>.

"History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States." UCLA National Center for History in the Schools. 2005. Los Angeles, CA. 29 Nov. 2010 <<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/nchs/standards/us-standards5-12.html>>.