

Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam

Directions: Read your letter out loud to your table partners. Then, discuss the letter with them. Write down as much information about the Vietnam war, and about the author, that you can gather from the letter. Remember, the author of the letter is the letter writer – the person who signs his or her name at the bottom.

Information about the War	Information about the Author

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Directions: Answer the following questions in complete, quality sentences on the back of this sheet.

1. What is your letter writer's point of view (opinion or perspective) about the Vietnam War?

2. Where do you think that opinion might have come from?

3. Who is the letter's audience? In other words, who is the writer writing the letter to?

4. Do you think the audience influences what the writer says? Why or why not?

5. Do you think the writer left out or included information, based on who the audience was?

6. Why would a letter writer leave out certain information?

7. Why would a letter writer include certain information?

8. Which information in the letters do you think is more important: personal or historical information?

9. Why do you feel one type of information is more important than another?

10. Would you care about this letter if it did not include historical information?

11. What would the letter be like if there was no personal information?

Writing Assignment: Write a fictional letter from someone serving in the Vietnam War, based on what you have learned about the war thus far. You must choose a point of view, or perspective, such as Army nurse, young soldier, lieutenant, school child writing to a father or brother, etc. Your letter must include three pieces of personal information, and two facts about the Vietnam war. Your letter must be in letter format, with a date (choose the date wisely!), salutation ("Dear Mom,"), closing ("Sincerely,") and be signed by you.