History 12 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Vietnam War Possible Essay Topics**

Select one (1) of the following questions, and answer it in a complete, well-organized essay. This essay will be written in-class, over two periods. This means that in-text citations will NOT be required for this activity, however, a final Works Cited list must be attached to the back, written in MLA-style.

Theme: Conflicts

* Investigate the role of Ngo Dinh Nhu and his wife Tran Le Xuan in the Ngo Dinh Diem regime.
* Why did Lyndon Johnson decide to commit American forces to the conflict in Vietnam? What people, advice and factors influenced Johnson’s decision?
* Consider the causes and effects of the My Lai massacre of March 1968. What did this incident reveal about America’s military involvement in Vietnam?
* Explain why the Tet Offensive was a victory and a defeat for both the Americans and the NVA-Viet Cong.
* Describe the challenges faced by American combat soldiers in Vietnam. What conditions and factors blunted the effectiveness of the American military?

Theme: Civil Rights

* Why did Ngo Dinh Diem and his followers target South Vietnam’s Buddhists? What effects did this persecution have on Diem’s own regime?
* Assess the influence of the antiwar movement on the end of the Vietnam War.
* Investigate American media coverage of the war in Vietnam. How was the war reported between 1964 and 1975 and how did this shape public attitudes and opinions?
* Referring to data like opinion polls, evaluate American attitudes to the Vietnam War between 1964 and 1975. Which policies, developments or events caused significant shifts in public opinion?
* Describe the difficulties faced by Vietnam veterans as they returned to civilian life in the United States.

Theme: Human Innovation & Technology

* Evaluate the reasons for the effectiveness of the Vietnamese Communist forces over the technologically superior army of the US.
* To what extent did technology influence American tactics during the Vietnam War?
* Evaluate the role of art, music and literature in the anti-Vietnam War movement.

You may also pick an essay topic of your choice. Pass this by Ms Tolliday prior to starting your investigation.