An important theme in our course is to learn more about the many ways in which every day Americans have participated in democracy. This assignment asks you to think about the role that average Americans play in the two longest wars in American history—consider the relationship between the Vietnam War (1965-1975) and the current war on terrorism (October 2001-present).


STEP TWO: READ and/or WATCH the following:

- Role of the United States in the Vietnam War (Wikipedia)
- “Why Vietnam?” Department of Defense film (1965)
- “Why We are in Vietnam” Speech by President Johnson (April 1965)
- “Dem Moulton Warns ISIS Fight Could Lead to Another Vietnam” (MSNBC)
- McCain, “ISIS Fight Becoming Another Vietnam” (*Military Times*, Apr 5 2016)
- Andrew Bacevich, “How Fighting Isis is Like Vietnam” (TIME Apr 8, 2016)
- “We are Not Heading toward Another Vietnam in Syria” (WGBH, Apr 26, 2016)

STEP THREE: THINK ABOUT IT.

STEP FOUR: After having analyzed the sources, compare and contrast the Vietnam Wars to the current wars on terrorism by responding to the following set of questions:

Did the Vietnam War make sense? Was it winnable? If not, why were we there? How is the Vietnam War similar to the war against terrorism? How do the two conflicts differ? Finally, how do average American citizens play a role in both wars?
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOLID ACADEMIC WRITING

- **Address every question.** Be sure to answer every question in the prompt.

- **Organize your thoughts and your argument.** Include an introduction that lays out the main argument (thesis). Develop your argument and provide evidence in the body of the response. Conclude the essay with a brief summary.

- **Prove your point.** Provide ample evidence to support your argument(s) by providing concrete examples and quotations from your reading. Cite relevant people, places, and events.

- **Write clearly and carefully.** Does every sentence make sense? If you need help organizing your thoughts into words, you are strongly encouraged to consult your instructor’s office hours and/or the CSUSM Writing Center for assistance. Poor spelling, syntax, punctuation and grammar are often a sign of sloppiness and will weigh heavily against your grade.

- **Think for yourself.** Answer the questions with your own brainpower, in your own words. This is not a research paper assignment! The American Promise and the sources identified in the assignment are the only sources that you may consult. ***Do NOT visit the internet for additional resources.

- **Avoid personal sentiments.** Voice your view, but avoid using the first person and personal sentiments such as “I feel that…” or “I believe that…” Your essay should make an academic argument based on evidence—not opinion.

- **Follow standard formatting and citation.** Your essay should be a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 750 words, typewritten (Times New Roman, 12 point font), double-spaced with 1-inch margins. Use standard citation style such as MLA, APA, or Chicago.

This essay is due to Cougar Courses before 10:00 AM on Friday, May 13.
Bring a hard copy of your paper to class that day.