U.S. in the Modern World Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Experiences of Vietnam Veterans**

**Introduction:** We have learned about the roots of the war in Vietnam, how and why the United States got involved, and some of the challenges that that American soldiers faced there. My Lai was an extreme, but important, example of how those challenges could be compounded and lead to terrible actions. What were some of the experiences and emotions more typical to those Americans who served and fought in Vietnam?

**Directions:** Use the link (on the wikispace for today’s class) to view some of the oral history videos with Vietnam War veterans. **Choose two** in particular to write down some thoughts. For each veteran that you choose, use the questions below to prompt yourself to write. You do not have to answer every question – choose the questions that feel most appropriate to the topics discussed by that veteran.

**Possible questions to answer:**

1. What are some of the memorable experiences that this veteran recounts?
2. What did this veteran perceive as his (and the U.S.’s) main objective in fighting the war?
3. Did this veteran support the war in Vietnam? Did his views of the war change over time?
4. How has this person been impacted by his experiences in Vietnam?
5. What did you learn about the Vietnam War from this veteran? What surprised you?

**Veteran 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Role in the military:**

**Impressions (based on your choice of some of the questions above)**

**Veteran 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Role in the military:**

**Impressions (based on your choice of some of the questions above)**