America & The Draft Reading Assignment

(HS. 13 Historical Reflection)

*Directions: Read the article “America and the Draft,” by Monica Davey. On a separate piece of paper, write your answers using complete sentences to evaluate the author’s narrative and description of the issues surrounding the Vietnam War draft.*

1. What does Davey state were two reasons people were so angry about the draft during the Civil War?

2. Why was there little opposition to the draft during World War II?

3. Summarize two of the problems the author describes with the initial Vietnam War draft.

4. What did some people of color do because they knew that their chances of being drafted were high?

5. What did people call young men who left the country or took actions not to be required to serve in the military? What does this name say about how people felt about these men?

6. Under the new lottery format, how were men called up for the draft?

7. What are the criticisms being used against the volunteer military today?

*(Answering all of the questions above correctly and in complete sentences earns a 2.0)*

8. Evaluate the tie that Davey makes between the media (television) and opposition to the draft. What other reasons could have drove people to protest the draft?

9. Explain why David O’Brien’s burning of his draft card would be an act of “symbolic speech.”

10. Davey says that there were still concerns about the equity of the Vietnam War draft even after the lottery was started. What information could she provide that would help you make that judgment?

*(Answering all of the questions above correctly and in complete sentences earns a 2.5)*

12. Evaluate the opinions and perspectives (their point of view, how they see the situation) of the people Davey chose to interview for this article. What does this tell you about her opinion about the Vietnam War draft?

13. Given the attitude the author holds toward drafts, can you imagine a situation in which she would support starting a draft? Why?

*(Answering all of the questions above correctly and in complete sentences earns a 3.0)*

14. Do you think the Vietnam War draft was fair? Using evidence from the article, argue why or why not.

*(Answering all of the questions above correctly and in complete sentences earns a 3.5)*