

## Letter Writing Assignment - English 30-2

### Persuasive Letter Assignment

Your task is to write a letter or speech from the point of view of someone living in America during the time of the draft for the Vietnam war. The individual that you are writing or speaking to is considering whether to go to the war or whether to escape and go to Canada. Those who believe he should go to war consider patriotism, bravery and family. Those who oppose him going to war may believe that the war is wrong, that there is physical danger or that it is wrong for an individual to act against his own beliefs.

**You can use any information from the story, your own knowledge or experience or details from the proceeding pages. Your task is to convince him to choose to go to the Vietnam war or not to go to the Vietnam war.**

In preparing your speech or letter, BE SURE TO

- study the information on the following pages and provided in the story
- consider your purpose and audience
- present a clear argument that explains the reasons behind your decision
- use an appropriate tone

Remember that you must clearly and directly convince him to either to go to the war or not to go to the war.

I feared the war, yes, but I also feared exile. I was afraid of walking away from my own life, my friends and my family, my whole history, everything that mattered to me. I feared losing the respect of my parents. I feared the law. I feared ridicule and censure. Pg 74

...how much I detested their blind, thoughtless, automatic acquiescence to it all, their simple-minded patriotism, their prideful ignorance, their love-it-or-leave-it platitudes, how they were sending me off to fight a war they didn't understand and didn't want to understand."  
Pg 74

There were occasions, I believed when a nation was justified in using military force to achieve its ends.

You were a treasonous coward if you had second thoughts about killing or dying for plain and simple reasons" pg 74

"I did not want people to think badly of me. Pg 78

My conscience told me to run pg 78

"I did not want to die. Not ever. But certainly not then, not there, not in a wrong war." Pg 73

"America needs to defend democracy where ever in the world it is in danger. No one wants to kill others but the killing is happening on both side...this is a war to stop the communists" citizen at the Gobbler cafe

Who wouldn't want to be remembered as a hero: a lone Ranger? That is what war does. It tests your courage and every man should embrace this opportunity