USH Chapter 17 Central Questions

Instructions: Part I: Complete individually. Part II: Complete with a partner.

Part I: Answer each set (not each question) of questions in 8-10 sentences.

1. What might have happened in Vietnam if the U.S had not aided the French and ultimately gotten involved? Do the French bear any responsibility for U.S. involvement in Vietnam? What options did Truman and Eisenhower have in regards to U.S. involvement in Vietnam?

2. Why did President Johnson expand American involvement in the Vietnam War? What impact did the war have on his legacy? Taking into account the fear of Communism in America and the outrage of American involvement in Vietnam, what were Johnson’s options concerning Vietnam?

3. What role did the media play in war protest? What role should the media play in political affairs? What were some of the reasons people opposed the war? What groups of people were most adamant in their opposition to the war? When is an individual justified in opposing a war?

4. Describe the Tet Offensive. How did the Tet Offensive influence the protest of “Doves” and “Hawks”? What should be the goal of the media in telling the war story? What should be the goal of protestors of war?

5. What responsibilities did President Nixon have in calming the nation’s fears after the difficult year of 1968? What responsibility does Nixon have how the Vietnam War ended? Why did the Nixon Administration not want the Pentagon Papers published? Should the Wall Street Journal and Washington Post have published the papers? Why or why not?

Part II: Answer one of the following questions in 5-6 sentences and draw a picture (with color) on a piece of paper that answers your question.

1. Should have America fought in Vietnam? Why or why not? (Give multiple reasons)

2. Which President is most responsible for the failings in Vietnam?

3. Could we have just pulled out of Vietnam at any time? Why or why not? What would have been the implications?