

**0Student Handout**  
**Oakland Museum of California**  
*What's Going On? California and the Vietnam Era*  
**Lesson Plan #2**

**1968: Year of Social Change and Turning Point in Vietnam and the U.S.**

**Oral History**

**Charley Trujillo**

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I questioned the war both, uh, as a Chicano and just as a human being. Uh, as a human being, I questioned it because of the brutality waged against the civilian popu ... population. Okay? And the suffering, especially of the children. And, uh, I also questioned in the war in terms of being a Chicano as to why I was fighting for the United States, if I was a Mexican, and I was treated as such, at least, sociologically. Okay? And I began to question that ... and also a Chicano farm worker, or, at least from a farm worker background. I began to see the Vietnamese as people struggling for their land, uh, and even certain physical characteristics that I had. So, that ... those things combined, I began to think differently about the war. But most importantly, especially since I was the point man most of the time, I began to question why would I be killed? Because I came close to being killed many, many times, and I began to question that. And when I returned home, when I returned, uh, how my life was going to be, and I just decided, well, I'm just gonna be another Mexican. And that was true, as I told you, at ... well, one experience that I had when I was ... went back to work out in the fields before I started college, the Border Patrol came out and asked me for my papers. And I was still ... I had just recovered from my wound.

