

Student 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

Widening the Social Divide 1965–1966

These quotes are from 1965-1966 news clips that show the widening social divide between the conservative right and the more radical left.

It's as if a flight of bombers has passed over Detroit. The bitterness and neglect of over 200 years of history erupts in a flaming miasma of terror, destruction and revenge. *[Sirens, music and gunfire]* Now you vote for me if you believe in yourself, if you believe in your right to control your own destiny, to run your own life. Reagan has more going for him. He appeals to people concerned about a mortgage pressured by increased taxes, and worried that a black man will move in next door. I really enjoyed Mr. Reagan; I always have on TV, ever since Goldwater's campaign. *[Mumbling]* Governor Pat Brown hasn't lost an election in twenty years, but he's fighting a conservative trend in the nation's most populous state. *[Cheering]* He tells us that for seven years we have had balanced budgets, and for seven years we've had no tax increases. Who is he kidding? Your property taxes have doubled in the last two years, and they are going up twice as fast as your increase in personal income. The election is close but Reagan comes out on top. Over Vietnam, more protests at home, more racial trouble in the cities and in the South, the prospects are not encouraging. So put down your books and pick up a gun, we're gonna have a whole lotta fun, and it's one two three what are we fighting for, well I don't give a damn, next stop is Vietnam and its five six seven open up...

