

Dear Grandpa,

I am writing to you to explain my reasons for not wanting to be conscripted for National Service and serve over in the Vietnam War. Whilst I understand your beliefs, I don't believe this our war to fight.

Grandpa, the view on war you when you were younger, is different to how we view war now. During WWI and WWII men thought of war as an honour, privilege and an adventure, this was because they were fighting to protect their country. As it stands now, we are fighting a war not to protect our country, but to back up someone else's views.

Communicates ideas coherently and empathetically

We all know why Australia joined the Vietnam War and at the time everyone believed it was the right thing to do. The war started because of deferent democratic views. North Vietnam is in support of communism and South Vietnam is in support of the democratic beliefs. When Vietnam went to war, the leader of government in South Vietnam, Ngo Dinh Diem, requested the help of America and its allies to help stop the spread of communism.

Around 1968, people have started to question the war in Vietnam. Propaganda became a major influence in this. During this time a few events conspired that shocked the world, North Vietnam attacked South Vietnam wiping out towns, cities and military installments. The Mai Lai Massacre occurred, where 120 Vietnamese were slaughtered in this event. Ever since then, the view on this war has changed from 'let's support America in this war!' to 'why are we even fighting this war?'

Demonstrates thorough historical research and reference

I am a conscientious objector. As I am now 20 years old, I have been conscripted as part of the compulsory National Service. However I have expressed my beliefs about not wanting to kill other human beings and therefore would prefer that the government would not put me in a situation to do so. I do not want to be part of the ongoing horrors that transpiring in Vietnam.

I can do my duty in other non-combat ways; there are jobs in the army such as chaplains, clerks or medics. People may see me as a 'draft evader', but I am one of many people protesting about how wrong it is to be part of this war. I am not a 'draft resistor'. I have not written a letter to the government detailing my intention not to comply with conscription.

I'm sure you are also aware of the anti-war groups that have been established throughout Australia. In 1965 a group of women formed an anti-conscription organisation called 'Save Our Sons'. They protested against conscription, to save the men under the age of 21 who have no say in the matter of conscription, hence the name 'Save Our Sons'. Another group known as 'The Youth Campaign Against Conscription' (YCAC) was a group of men who fell subject to the conscription lottery. What they would do, is burn their registration cards in order to show their displeasure towards the war. Doing this was not an illegal act, it was merely symbolic, it was such a powerful act that it got the message across quickly and precisely.

Supports ideas with relevant and accurate information

On the 8th of May this year, 120,000 people took place in a Moratorium March. This march was made up of anti-war protestors to highlights the public's view on the Vietnam War. I'm sure this won't be the last Moratorium March, I've heard that there is another one planned on the 18th of September and again, it is to protest our involvement in the Vietnam War.

The majority of us are feeling the same way regarding about our involvement in this war and I hope you will understand my views and beliefs and accept my standing as a conscientious objector.

Best wishes

Josh

Bibliography (Please note these links have not been verified and may not work)

[www.Wikipedia.com](http://www.Wikipedia.com)-information\_on this sight was just general information such as Moratorium marches and conscription.

[www.vvaa.org.au](http://www.vvaa.org.au) (Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia)- this was info on events in the Vietnam War.

[www.awm.com](http://www.awm.com) (Australian War Memorial)-this information on conscription and the Vietnam War.

[www.camden-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.camden-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)-information on Vietnam.

### Grade Commentary

Casey demonstrates and applies a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Vietnam War. This response shows a thorough level of competence in selecting and interpreting from a range of sources. It contains effective use of historical terms and explains the effect of war on society. The use of language is varied in its effectiveness in the context of writing a letter. This work sample demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a students performing at a grade B standard.