U.S. History Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam

The film you are about to see is a documentary that uses actual footage and letters from soldiers during the Vietnam War. Although the letters are read by actors, they are actual letters written by soldiers. The letters have been organized in chronological order, so you will be able to see not only how soldiers' thoughts change and develop, but also how the nature of the war changes over time. As you view the film, take notes on a separate piece of paper that will allow you to answer the questions below, using specific examples from the film as support for your answers.

1. What are some of the changes in soldiers' attitudes toward the war as the film (and the timeframe it represents) progresses? Why do you think these changes occur?

2. Although there were many more American men stationed in Vietnam than women, some letters from women serving are included in the film. What are some of the similarities between the letters from the men and women? What are some of the differences? What are some of the reasons for the differences?

3. As you watch the film, choose one person's perspective on the war that you think most closely matches the perspective you think you would have in their shoes. Explain why you would have this perspective.

4. As the movie progresses, take note of the important events that you have or will read about in your text. How does the movie help you understand these events in a deeper way? Use specific examples.