

Summarizing the Conflicts of the 60s

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Summarizing is briefly stating the main points of an event, a discussion, or a piece of writing.

You summarize when you

- tell a friend about a movie you saw
- answer the dinner table question, “How was school today?”
- write an essay about your summer vacation

In what other situations might you use the skill of summarizing?

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Essential Question: What are the roots of the conflict?

Directions: The Vietnam War was the main conflict of 60s. There were, however, other conflicts during the period. Understanding these conflicts will give you a broader picture of the era and will give you insight into the roots, or causes, of the conflicts of the 60s.

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The passages on the following screens are from “The Swinging Sixties,” the essay in the Creating Context section of *Times of Change: Vietnam and the 60s*. Notice how one reader highlighted the conflicts she identified in **Passage A** and wrote a short summary of the passage based upon the highlighted sections. Follow the model and underline the conflicts in **Passage B**. Write your summary in the space provided.

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Passage A

More significantly, the **struggle for racial equality** begun in the late fifties continued with **demonstrations, voter registration drives, race riots, the murders of civil rights activists as well as innocent children**, and a march through Washington, D.C., highlighted by **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech** and the singing of "We Shall Overcome."

from "The Swinging Sixties," page 9

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Summary: The 60s were a decade of conflicts. One of the most important was the fight for racial equality. This fight included demonstrations, riots, and the murder of civil rights workers and leaders as well as innocent children.

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Directions: Underline the main points in **Passage B**. Write your summary in the space provided.

Passage B

Meanwhile, the race between the Soviets and the Americans for dominance in outer space continued, culminating on July 21, 1969, when U.S. astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin stepped onto the surface of the moon.

continuea

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Your response may look like this.

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continued

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Passage B (Your Response)

At the same time, fighting escalated in Vietnam, with the horrors of war brought into everyone's homes on the television news each evening. As American casualties mounted, so did the protests against this war. "Make love, not war" became the slogan of the times, and people everywhere sang John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance."

from "The Swinging Sixties," page 9

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Possible Summary: The 60s were a time of pride and protest. Americans' spirits soared when astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin beat the Soviets to the moon. But people were horrified by images of the Vietnam War they saw each night on the news. Many protested against the war.