

Generalizing About What Happened at Home

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Generalizing is drawing broad general conclusions based on several pieces of specific evidence.

You use generalizing in these situations.

- You learn that over half the students in your school have experienced divorce in their family. You could generalize that divorce has become more common nationwide.
- You realize that five girls in your class have the name Tiffany and four boys have the name Taylor. You could generalize that Tiffany and Taylor are popular names.
- You notice that several popular singing groups are made up of all males or all females. You could generalize that music is divided along gender lines.

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Avoid making false generalizations. Following are two examples of inaccurate generalizations that are based on inadequate information.

- You know a girl who is afraid of snakes. You might falsely generalize that all girls are afraid of snakes.
- Your brothers are very interested in computers. You might falsely generalize that all boys are interested in new technologies.

What are some other situations where you might use the skill of generalization?

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Essential Question: What was happening back home?

Directions: The chart on the following screens lists several topics related to Vietnam and the 60s. Before you read any selections in this cluster, complete the second column by writing your general opinion about each topic based on your own experience and knowledge. If you have little or no background with a topic, put down any words or phrases you associate with the topic. After you complete writing your generalizations in column two, read the selections in cluster three of *Times of Change: Vietnam and the 60s*.

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After you finish reading, use the third column to expand or amend your understanding of the topic. Your refined generalizations should reflect a new or deeper understanding of each topic, as in the example on the next screens. Be prepared to use examples from your reading to support your refined generalizations

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Topic	Initial Opinion or Generalization	Refined Generalization
Protesters	Antiwar protesters used gentle “flower power” to express their message of nonviolence.	While many antiwar protests were peaceful, some radicals took “revolutionary” actions such as disrupting the 1968 Chicago Democratic Convention and burning university buildings.

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Topic	Initial Opinion or Generalization	Refined Generalization
Student protests		

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Topic	Initial Opinion or Generalization	Refined Generalization
Hippies		

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Topic	Initial Opinion or Generalization	Refined Generalization
Establishment responses to student protest		

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Topic	Initial Opinion or Generalization	Refined Generalization
The Generation Gap		

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Topic	Initial Opinion or Generalization	Refined Generalization
Government's conduct of the war		

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Topic	Initial Opinion or Generalization	Refined Generalization
Returning veterans		