

## Writing Activity: Dueling Letters to the Editor

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**Directions:** With a partner, choose one of the incidents in this cluster. Each of you will write a letter to the editor about the incident, with one of you taking the side of the counterculture and the other taking the side of the establishment.

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The organizer on the next screens will help you develop ideas for your letters. First, select one of the incidents that you and your partner are interested in. Then chose a side. Briefly outline your view on the incident and develop a generalization that states your opinion. Then give clear reasons for your opinion. Use facts instead of overgeneralizations such as “*All* police react brutally to protesters, who are *always* nonviolent.” End by restating the opinion you want readers to remember.

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Incident	Counterculture's View	Establishment's View
Protests at the 1969 Chicago Democratic Convention		
Civil Rights Movement		

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Incident	Counterculture's View	Establishment's View
Woodstock Festival		
Conflict at the University of Berkeley		

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Incident	Counterculture's View	Establishment's View
Expansion of the war into Cambodia		
Shooting of Kent State students		

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Incident	Counterculture's View	Establishment's View
May 9, 1970, march on Washington		

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Use your strongest opinions and evidence in your letters to the editor.

Remember, **a strong editorial**

- begins with a general statement based on facts
- states your opinion
- lists clear reasons for your opinion
- avoids overgeneralization and universal terms such as *all*, *always*, and *never*
- ends with a summary of your opinion