1. What were some of the major cultural and political events that directly preceded 1968? How did they influence the events which occurred in 1968?
2. What was the Tet Offensive? What did it reveal about the conflict in Vietnam and why was it particularly shocking for Americans?
3. How was Arlo Guthrie’s song “Alice’s Restaurant” a commentary on the draft? What message was Guthrie trying to convey, and why? Is there still a draft today?
4. What was at stake for those who dodged the draft? By going to Canada to escape the draft and military service, were people breaking the law? Do you think some draft dodgers were justified, or not?

1. Why do you think the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco was the destination and home for so many in the counter-culture movement? How would you characterize this movement, and what is the actual definition of a “hippie”?
2. Why do you think the Smothers Brothers were so popular? By the same token, why do you think they were considered so controversial? Is there a need for personalities like John Stewart and the Smothers Brothers to “take off the veil” for society?
3. Why was George Wallace such a polarizing figure in politics? Why do you think he garnered such support, and how did his viewpoints compare with those of the other presidential candidates in 1968?
4. What was the Orangeburg Massacre? What were the repercussions of this violent event, and how do you think it influenced and affected the Civil Rights, and even the anti-war Movements?
5. What incited the various sit-ins and protests at Columbia University? How would you describe the make up of these protestors and what ultimately happened to them? Do you think that anything of this size and nature could happen today? Why or why not?
6. What were the various reactions to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?
7. Why do you think Robert Kennedy was such an influential and widely liked candidate, especially among minority groups such as migrant farm workers? What set him apart from Eugene McCarthy? Finally, why was the Senator assassinated?
8. What were the repercussions of the riots at the 1968 Democratic Convention? Can you think of any recent event that was covered and exposed so extensively on television?
9. What was the “silent majority” and why were they significant? How did this contingency ultimately affect the results of the 1968 Presidential Election?
10. Apart from the political, what were some of the other major events that took place in 1968?
11. Former Nixon speech writer Pat Buchanan considers 1968 one of the most divisive years in American History. Why? Do you agree? If so, would you characterize this divisiveness as detrimental, beneficial, or somewhere in between?