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12th march 1970

Dear Grandad

Hope your well, been missing you, hope you and Nan are doing okay. Hope to see you soon. I have just finished my first year of university as I am studying to become a lawyer. I have recently just got married, and will be becoming a father in the next 2 months which is very exciting!

I have read through your letter and not sure about it, I understand your reasons and why you would like me to do my duty and join the war effort.

I understand what you said about the domino theory I agree with what you said about the communists. That if we allow communism to continue in the south-east Asian countries, it would soon take over each minor country one by one like falling dominoes. I understand that you, like so many others believe that if we do not stop communism now, it will soon spread to all nearby countries including Australia.

My point of view on that grandad is that I don't think Australia should get involved in a war that is not their own. But if communism directly threatens Australia then it would be our duty to stand up and fight but not when it's in someone else's country. I believe that we shouldn't get involved in politics of other countries.

I also understand when you say we should go to help the U.S with this war. Because they helped Australia in World War 2 and we are allies. I don't believe we should go fight this war just because we are allies to America. We should be able to make up our own mind about which war to fight in, not one that America gets involved in. As an example if you have a mate who is always picking fights

Sound explanation of the events related to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War

A good understanding of the different perspectives Australians had on the Vietnam War

down at the RSL, it doesn't mean you have to get involved in the fight just because you're his mate no matter how right or wrong he may be.

I know the trade unions are against the war, and their bosses don't want them to go to war. The bosses of the factories and industries support the war because they see the opportunity to make money off the government contract. Because the government pays them money to provide supplies to the people in the war such as food, water, and transport. So I'm hoping once I'm finished university I am planning to join the trade unions and help fight against the war. Which I hope will make you proud of me.

I want to take this opportunity to explain some of my points of view and hope you can understand my reasons why I may not want to go fight in the Vietnam War. Firstly it is a very far distance to travel; it's a very far away from my family. I don't want to leave my life here at this age. I'm still young and have my whole life ahead of me and still so many goals to achieve through my career. I have a wife and I am soon to be a father. At this point I'm not ready to risk giving up my life.

I know our family has been in the military for generations and you fought in Gallipoli and that dad fought and died in the war against the Nazis. Now you expect me to follow in the footsteps of our family

There is so many risks of me coming to war including, not returning back home safely to my family getting an injury that affects me the rest of my life, catch any sort of disease that is incurable and possibly dying from the disease, and most of all I don't want to return with psychological problems caused from the horrors I will have seen. As much as I would like to come serve our country like you did, it's just not the right time at the moment.

Explanation of the social and political developments related to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War

Good empathetic understanding of the Grandfather's views

*Hope you can understand my reasons why I can't come.
So grandad to sum up, I am really sorry but I don't think I'll be
volunteering for the war. I have my reasons and I have shared
them with you. Even though you may not be for my reasons I just
think it's the best thing for me right now to stay here in Australia.
I still have my whole life ahead of me and I want to live it to the
fullest and achieve all the goals I can.*

Sorry again. Hope to see you soon. Stay safe.

*Your loving grandson,
James*

Bibliography (Please note these links have not been verified and may not work)

<http://vietnam.commemoration.gov.au/public-opinion/>

<http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/vietnam.asp>

*[http://vietnam-war.commemoration.gov.au/vietnam-war/
school_history_book](http://vietnam-war.commemoration.gov.au/vietnam-war/school_history_book)*

Grade Commentary

Jerry has demonstrated a sound understanding of historical concepts that were integrated into the correct letter writing structure and has used some empathetic language. Both sides of the argument are displayed; however, this response would have benefitted from a better understanding of political developments, such as conscription, to achieve a higher grade. This work sample demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade C standard.