

Abbie Hoffman



**The Question:** The United States is deadlocked in a war in Vietnam. After the Tet Offensive, it seems the U.S. might lose the war. How best do we proceed?

**My Life:** (Deliver as an angry hippie. Consider bringing an anti-war poster. You can swear **three extra times** than provided in the script but **you must bleep your words.**)

- I was born in Massachusetts in 1936 and started out in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Then, I got so fed up with the war in Vietnam that I decided to mobilize America's Youth with the Yippies in January 1968 (a group that later became known as the Hippies).
- In 1968, I was implicated in the **Chicago 7** where we rioted outside the Democratic National Convention. The Democrats were picking some establishment square named Hubert Humphreys for their nominee for president.
- So we rioted outside their building while parading a stuffed pig as OUR nominee.
- After I was arrested in 1973 on cocaine charges, I went underground.

**My Point of View and Personality:**

- I am a middle class white male with a totally radical point of view. As the father of the hippie movement, I want to tear down the conformity "BLEEP-BLEEP" of the 1950s and experiment with new kinds of relationships and systems.
- That's called the **counterculture!** I believe change will happen by empowering the youth. I am famous for telling establishment "squares" "We will get you through your children."

**My Argument: In my judgment, the best way to proceed in Vietnam is to GET OUT NOW:**

**The Government is lying to you:**

- Robert McNamara goes on TV to say that we're winning when he knows he's wrong.
- The Pentagon has detailed reports, called the **Pentagon Papers** that McNamara himself ordered, which say that the U.S. cannot win the war, even with the solutions he proposes. These papers will get leaked. **People will know we're not the good guys!**

**Join the Counterculture, the establishment is a CONSPIRACY!:**

- The **military/industrial complex** needs to be destroyed. **Capitalism is NOT your friend! IT KILLS PEOPLE!** The DOW Chemical company makes plastic wrap and tupperware for civilians but they also make napalm for their biggest customer: the U.S. military. Whenever you pay for freezer bags, your capitalist overlords use your money to blow up jungles in Vietnam! Fight the system!
- We need to restart our American civilization. We need to get rid of it all and start from scratch. I vote we rebuild our culture on free love! That means you can love anyone you want, **as many times as you want**, no matter their race or gender! We will build a perfect culture based on enjoyment instead of profit.
- **In my world, no one is a leader and people live in harmony with each other and nature!**

(SAVE FOR ACT 2) **(To McNamara)** I don't know why you hate communists, man! Everyone's equal. It's free love. Letting the world turn communist wouldn't be so bad. Why don't you do what my friend, "The Pope of Dope" **Dr. Timothy Leary** says, **"Turn On, Tune In and Drop Out!"** **(To his response)** Don't be such a downer, man!

**(To Nixon)** Don't think because I'm hard on McNamara that I agree with you, Mr. Nixon. You're a square! You say you want peace but you're gonna bomb everyone! That's not real peace!

# Richard M. Nixon



**The Question:** The United States is deadlocked in a war in Vietnam. After the Tet Offensive, it

seems the U.S. might lose the war. How best do we proceed?

**My Life:** (You have a deep/gravelly voice. You're running for President so consider a pin)

- I was born in California and got my first taste in politics when I ran for student body president in high school.
- After serving in World War II, I started my career as a congressman from California.
- Then I was the Vice President for Dwight D. Eisenhower for both his terms. I ran for president in 1960 and lost to President Kennedy because I sweat too much on T.V.

**My Point of View and Personality:**

- I am infamous for my conservative views.
- I say, all these young radicals, such as Colin Watanabe and Abbie Hoffman, need to shut up and get jobs like good Americans.
- **The norms should not be questioned. The office of the President should not be questioned. The systems work when no one questions it!**
- I am extremely paranoid. *I record every conversation I have. That way, I can use the words of my enemies against them if they ever cross me.*

**My Argument: In my judgment, the best way to proceed in Vietnam is to get out SLOWLY:**

**We should adopt Vietnamization/Peace With Honor:**

- The Vietnam War is a civil war. The United States happened to get involved because it stops the spread of communism.
- During the Tet Offensive, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops ambushed American troops during a holiday. It's now clear that the United States should back off.
- However, we cannot simply pull out now because that would make the U.S. look foolish.
- The United States has to **Vietnamize the war by giving the South Vietnamese enough materials to fight for themselves.** As our troops come home, we extend the responsibilities to the South Vietnamese.
- When the last American soldier leaves Vietnam, the South should be strong enough to defend themselves. (In Theory)

**I promote the Nixon Doctrine:**

- When it comes to combating communism, the world needs to realize that we cannot commit American lives.
- Putting "boots on the ground" puts the lives of American citizens at risk. Also, it makes American prestige vulnerable to attack. The United States is losing prestige because of the Vietnam War. The world is seeing our weaknesses.
- Instead, we use our money. **We train our allies in NATO and SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) to fight communism for us.**

(SAVE FOR ACT 2) **(To Hoffman)** Laugh all you want, Mr. Hoffman, but my plan will at least bring the troops home which is what you want. The Democrats want to send more troops. The choice is clear, my friends! Vote Nixon! As for what we do to bring peace to Vietnam, what you don't know won't hurt you.

**(To Kissinger)** I like your plan, Dr. Kissinger. But maybe we should talk about it later, when there aren't so many people listening. The public shouldn't know about us using the CIA to interfere with politics. Whether it's our country or someone else's.