Why was there a growing student protest movement in the 1960s?

Learning Objectives: To identify the reasons for protest in the 1960s

Key Terms, Events, Names: Vietnam War, Hippies, SDS, Drugs, Contraception, New Generation, Civil Rights Movement, Music, Counter Culture
LO: To identify the reasons for protest in the 1960s

Reasons For Student Protest

Find a partner with a matching button to yours.

With you partner, discuss the following:

1. What is the message of the button? Which event or events is it linked to?
2. How does it reflect the values or aims of the students protest movement?
The number of students grew throughout the 1960s but their dissatisfaction with society also grew.

This led to increased pressure on government to change society, especially over the issue of the Vietnam War.

But what were students angry about and why did the student movement emerge?
What was wrong with American society in the 1960s?

LO: To identify the reasons for protest in the 1960s

1. Growing poverty in inner cities among minority groups.
2. Black people and other minority groups had their rights denied.
3. Women were treated as 2\textsuperscript{nd} class citizens.
4. Fear of a nuclear holocaust.
5. Disillusionment with the growing consumer culture.
6. 1950s American society had strict social and moral expectations.

Rank these problems in order of importance (consider which would lead to most protest amongst young people)
What would your mother say!!!
The baby boom after WW2 led to large numbers of affluent young people coming to maturity in the 1950s and 1960s.

The young were influenced by the legacy of the 1950s; Rock ‘n’ Roll, heavy drinking, teenage gangs & rebellion – all fuelled by growing prosperity, media influence and free-time.
Growing Expectations

When WW2 ended, people hoped for a return to prosperity. The USA became more wealthy but only for WASPs (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants) and mostly for men.

When Kennedy was elected president in 1961, he promised a fairer, more equal society. His assassination angered and disillusioned many young people.
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Emerging Counter-Culture

The attitudes of teenagers in the 1950s and their rising expectations of society led to the young distancing themselves from the older generation and its view on how they should behave.

They demanded greater freedom in everything; music, clothes, social life, sexual relations and ways of thinking.
 Emerging Counter-Culture

These demands were influenced by the introduction of the 
**contraceptive pill**, which gave women the choice over when to have children.

These attitudes fuelled a growing **sense of freedom** among the young and it found expression in movements such as the **hippy movement** – which emphasised music, drugs, peace, free love and communal living.
Emerging Counter-Culture

LO: To identify the reasons for protest in the 1960s

- The growing access to University education brought young people together and introduced them to this counter-culture.
- Students started to demand a greater say in their own education. Their new found freedom of expression led them to questioning their education.
- Strikes and demonstrations affected nearly every university in the country.
LO: To identify the reasons for protest in the 1960s

Protest Singers

- Alongside these developments, the 1960s saw an explosion in pop music that was both an expression of this emerging youth culture, and of protest against important issues.
- British bands like the Beatles and Rolling Stones and American artists like Jimi Hendrix and Bob Dylan all sang about themes such as nuclear war, racism, sex, drugs and opposition to war.
Many young Americans had their first experience of protest from watching the growing **Civil Rights Movement** in the media. Scenes of violence against peaceful protesters and the inspirational speeches of MLK all helped to **inspire young people to protest themselves**. This led to many white students taking part in freedom marches, freedom rides and sit-ins.
The Vietnam War

**LO:** To identify the reasons for protest in the 1960s

- The USA entered the war in 1955 as part of the **Cold War**. As involvement increased from 1965, more money and soldiers were committed – and **more deaths**.
- TV images of US tactics such as napalm attacks, burning villages and civilian deaths all showed the **USA as oppressor**.
- Students protested against this and even burnt their draft cards to avoid **being conscripted**.
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**The Vietnam War – Reasons for Opposition**

1. Students called to arms through draft system.
2. Massive increase in casualties – 1965 2000 casualties, by 1968 increased to 14,000
3. US supporting corrupt South Vietnam regime
4. US methods of warfare
5. Media televised the war in colour – worsened bloody nature of war.
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Based on your knowledge of the topic you are going to create a Mindmap as to 'the Reasons for Student Protest'

- Rank order the reasons clockwise from the most to the least important.
- Use different coloured pens to show links between some of the reasons.
- Briefly explain the link between the reasons.
**LO:** To identify the key events and features of the Student protest movement of the 1960s

### How Did Students Campaign?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BERKELEY UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>COLOMBIA UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>KENT STATE UNIVERSITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miyu</td>
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<td>Tiffany</td>
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<td>Jude</td>
<td>Roan</td>
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1. Create a **presentation** outlining the **causes, key features and effects** of either the 1964 Berkeley Free Speech Movement; 1968 Columbia University Protests and 1970 Kent State University protests.

2. Develop some form of **interactive game/activity** that relates to your topic.