**Thesis Review**

Question: Why did the United States lose the Vietnam War?

The Vietnam War, from 1969 to 1975, was one of the most unpopular and devastating conflicts fought by the United States. As the politicians in Washington set out to win a Cold War battle and fight the spread of communism, thousands of men and women were dying in the jungles of Vietnam. When the war finally came to an end, over 50 000 American soldiers had lost their lives, more than one million Vietnamese civilians had been killed and communism was not contained (Adams 34). By 1975, the United States had withdrawn from the conflict and North Vietnam quickly took control of the South, uniting the nation under communist rule. **The Americans lost the Vietnam War because they were unprepared for guerilla warfare, they lost the support of the people, and they underestimated their enemy.**

**Avoiding Plagiarism**

**What is Plagiarism?**

Plagiarism is when someone:

* Passes in an essay they have copied or purchased.
* Copying a part or all of someone else’s work without giving credit (this includes photos, maps, diagrams).
* Paraphrasing someone else’s work or ideas without giving credit.

**Golden Rule**: Provide citations for any ideas, words, or visuals that

are not your own! \*\*Remember to cite all statistics.

**What is NOT plagiarism?**

* Using your own ideas, images or creations.
* Ideas that are “common knowledge.” For instance, common sense ideas (“pollution is bad for people and animals”) and even historical events (“World War II lasted from 1939 to 1945”).
* According to the OWL at Purdue, something is common knowledge if you can find it “undocumented in at least 5 credible sources.”
* If you are in doubt, cite it!

**Tips to Avoid Plagiarism**

* When you take notes, write the source and date at the top of the page.
* Try to take notes in your own words, remembering you must also cite when your paraphrase.
* If you take a direct quote from a source, put it in quotation marks.
* Write down “My idea” beside any thoughts that are purely your own.
* If you use someone else’s ideas or words, cite it!