President Nixon’s “Silent Majority” Speech Questions

Instructions: Read or watch President Nixon’s address to the nation delivered on November 3, 1969, almost one year after winning the 1968 election. TYPE the answers the questions using your own words. Answers that are cut and pasted and/or plagiarized will result in no points awarded for the entire assignment.

1. According to President Nixon why is there a deep division about Vietnam among Americans?
2. According to many people what was “the only way to avoid allowing Johnson’s war to become Nixon’s war”?
3. What did Nixon believe would be the consequences of immediate U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam?
4. What specifics did Nixon cite to support his arguments against “precipitate troop withdrawal”? (Provide at least 2 proofs)
5. List the 3 points to the U.S peace proposal that was being rejected by the North Vietnam (Hanoi).
6. List the 2 points to the North Vietnamese (Hanoi) peace proposal at the Paris Conference.
7. Do you agree or disagree with the following counsel given to President Nixon by a leader of another Asian country, “When you (U.S.) are trying to assist another nation defend its freedom, U.S. policy should be to help them fight the war, but not to fight the war for them.” Explain your opinion.
8. According to the speech whose business is it to defend freedom?
9. What is meant by “Silent Majority”? What is meant by “vocal minority”?
10. What did Nixon mean by “Vietnamization”?
11-15. Write down 5 phrases from the address that you found interesting AND explain why you found each of them interesting.