In his 1967 response to President Johnson’s letter, Ho Chi Minh utilizes definitive, absolute diction and juxtaposition to emphasize North Vietnam’s steadfast commitment to its cause of obtaining complete rule of South Vietnam. Minh begins his letter by stating, the “Vietnamese people have never done any harm to the United States.” This abrupt, brief statement juxtaposed in syntax by the following sentence—5x lengthens the preceding sentence’s length—in which Minh details how the U.S. has meddled in Vietnam and “intensified the war,” despite “commitments made by its representative at the Geneva Conference of 1954.” Minh’s style of writing starkly contrasts Johnson’s more gentle, more patient tone, as Minh wastes no time immediately placing the onus of the conflict in Vietnam squarely on the shoulders of the U.S. Minh goes on to utilize assertive—in some places aggressive—diction that forms a definitive, uncompromising tone as it relates to North Vietnam ceasing in military warfare. Minh accuses the U.S. of utilizing the “most inhumane arms” alongside “barbarous methods of warfare.” Minh goes on to demand the U.S.—whose fault in the affairs in Vietnam seems clearly and undoubtedly large according to Minh—halt “definitively and unconditionally” warfare against the U.S. Minh’s continued use of such strong, absolute diction might leave his audience,
Johnson and the general global public, unsure of whether North Vietnam would eventually bend to the will of the U.S., Minh goes on in his den conditions for peace to demand the U.S. let Vietnam alone to sort itself out, and he supports his demand with the claim that this is not only among the foundational belief of the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, but also—Minh juxtaposes—the "essential arrangements of the Geneva agreements," which calls into question the United States' credibility and trustworthiness. Overall, Minh utilizes strong, assertive diction and the juxtaposition of Vietnam and the United States' credibility to validate N. Vietnam's steadfast reaction to the provocation of war on behalf of the U.S.