Questions on “…Class War, Daddy?”

Read the essay by James Fallows and answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why does Fallows say that he would either be drafted or have to find a way to prevent that? What makes him so sure he will be drafted?
2. Look up the words “axiomatic” and “complicit” and then explain what Fallows means when he says that “among my friends it was axiomatic that one should not be ‘complicit’ in the immoral war effort.”
3. What does the end of the third paragraph reveal about how Fallows the writer views the beliefs he held when he was making his decisions about the draft. Explain your answer.
4. Aside form the fact that the people around him agreed with his choices, list three concrete ways that being a Harvard student helped Fallows in attempting to avoid the draft.
5. What was his weight and height on draft day?
6. How would you describe the tone on 215 as Fallows describes the events of draft day? Which images, details, and sentences best communicate the tone?
7. Fallows lists lessons learned from the Vietnam era, but which lesson does he think we have not yet faced? (Explain these in your own words.)
8. What is the difference between evading and resisting the draft?
9. What does Fallows think of his decision to evade the draft rather than resist it?
10. **Do you think Fallows did the right thing? Is the class system as Fallows described it any different today? Can you come up with any concrete examples to support your opinion?**
11. Faced with the same choice today, what would you do and why?