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## Part One

The story in part four that really caught my attention was "Memorial Day 1968". Although it was very short, it had a real grasp of my attention because I feel the author is be absolutely truthful and it brings the reader emotion out. I think that a major turning point happened after Americans started disagreeing heavily with the war. It is hard to fight a war when your country does not support it. In "Memorial Day 1968" he talks about World War II vets who said "you've got to fight for your country" were even beginning to speak against the war. The Cleveland Press which was a conservative pro war paper began to write articles against the war, the paper didn't want to see good kids ~~dying~~ any longer for this war. In this story the author experiences personal effects of the war. A former class mate who he was not acquainted with very well but shared a high school home room class had died in Vietnam not long after enlisting after graduation. The author was on vacation from college when he read the local newspaper. The paper was asking "He was only 19- did you know him?" This kid in the paper was his old home roommate. There was a letter found that was written by his co-student who died that was to be read only if he was to die in the war and not return. Mostly this letter was saying what to do with the 10 thousand dollars of military life insurance. He wanted it all to go to his sisters so they could get through college. The letter ended with a P.S. saying "Don't forget to give Joey my hockey skates. This hit him like a brick. The war made a real personal impact upon him at this point. This impact and change against the war was not only felt by him but many Americans as well and I believe this was a major "turning point" in the war. For me this story made a real connection with me. It makes you realize that this was a real kid who had the future ahead of him and is now dead.

## Part Two

In part five there were many different stories that I enjoyed reading and I was able to take things away from but the one I used for this assignment is "Everybody thought we had won the war" because I feel it ties into my part one of this assignment. I feel that we lost this war from the inside. The turn against the war that happened within our own country. As I said above it is hard to fight a war ~~when the country does not support it at all.~~ In "Everybody thought we had won the war" you see how the author's perspective of the Vietnam War changed drastically from before and after he was there in 1970. Before when he was attending Harvard University he had become swayed toward the anti war movement. While attending Harvard he saw that at every gate was groups of people handing flyers or anything anti-war out to the students. When students are being told one thing over and over again it will influence there thinking no matter what. At colleges around the country I feel this is very common. Many people state there opinions on many issues and it is usually only one side the students ever hear. I think that college students in general don't have strong opinions or beliefs so when a group challenges what they think they believe they are shaken easily and easily swayed to another point of view. So because of this I can see and understand exactly what the author is saying. His view of the war changes drastically again when he gets to Vietnam in 1970. He notices how the view and actions of the war being televised and reported on is much exaggerated. He said reporters would get statements from officials, go have a few drinks, tell a few jokes, and end up writing a totally BS story making the officials out to look like idiots. There is still firefights and issues that happen in all wars but not to the extent that is being reported to the public. He sees that the region is much more stable than he thought; it is actually not even close to what he expected. At one point he talks about a trip to Dalat that he and a few others took. He says "We just went there happily and came back". They took the road without any issues what so ever. This was a real sign that the area was not in a constant firefight and that things on the ground were much better than people think. He was working within the American embassy and got a front row view of what was really going on. I believe this story because he has first hand experience and at the beginning had a totally different opinion. He was present when the word of the Paris Agreement came through by Nixon in 1972. ~~So I believe that a big ending point was the same as the turning point in a way.~~ The negative view of the war within our own country, whether it real or (as stated in part two of this assignment) not a real report of what was happening, was what really did us in due to the total media access to the war.

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