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# HST195 Assignment 1

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## Part 1

The story that caught my attention was that of Deidre English. The opening quote, "How can my country be at war and I don't know about it." sums up what grabbed my attention. In today's world, the idea that anyone wouldn't know who their country is at war with is astonishing. The internet and cable news pretty much makes it impossible not to know. It makes me wonder what would have been different if Vietnam had the same level of coverage as Iraq and Afghanistan have had.

I find Deidre's story to be very reliable. She spoke of her own personal experience. So she should be considered an authority on the subject. The only part that needs more evidence is that she says most people didn't know America was at war in Vietnam. She is ascribing her lack of knowledge on everyone else by calling herself part of 'most Americans.' The rest of her story is about her own personal experiences and feelings, so they can be taken at face value, unless something comes up contradicting her.

## Part 2

The story of Ngo Vinh Long is a disappointing story. His story of going from idolizing America when he was young, to protesting American policy is sad. It shows what a huge opportunity America missed in Vietnam. If policy makers had sought out and listened to people like Ngo Vinh Long, some or all of the many tragedies of the Vietnam War may have been avoided. It is disappointing to read about a man who was well liked by influential people being ignored and called naive, even though he had demonstrated his love of America and his knowledge of Vietnam. It is good to read his story, and the others like it. With these accounts, perhaps we can avoid the same mistakes that made these stories so tragic.

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