

Part 1

"Memorial Day 1968", By Clark Dougan (pg.304-306) in ("Patriots by Appy") is the perfect example of a turning point in many people's lives. Dougan's story represented a turning point of the effects that the war was having on the people who were just graduating high school and getting drafted right away. Students were constantly hearing about the people who were being killed in the war during school; and they could be drafted to go to war and possibly die like those men. During Dougan's first year in college the Tet Offensive was raging across South Vietnam. He later left school in late May. On Memorial Day 1968, Dougan stated that as he opened up the (Cleveland Press) he came across a story about a 19 year old named Greg Fischer. The Article hit him really hard because Fisher was a kid he only talked to once at the end of high school. When Dougan asked him what he was going to do after high school, Greg responded he was going to join the Marines since he was going to get drafted anyways. Dougan himself never went off to the war but he did feel the effects of it by hearing about the many people who were dying overseas for this country. Dougan states that he thinks that was when most Middle Americans turned against the war.

Dougan's story is the correct choice for this assignment is because it shares a piece of how his life had been affected without having to go to war. He seemed to understand what was going on and how the Middle Americans were against the war after the Tet Offensive. The article of Fischer was titled "He was 19-Did you know Him?" It was an amazing turning point for people all across America. The death of so many young people in the war led to many Americans opposing the war. This made it very hard for the government to get the support that was needed from the communities.

Part 2

The best example of an ending is the story by Chalmers Johnson (pg.422-424). His story outlined his opinion about the war and how we shouldn't have gotten involved. He was ashamed of the lies that were going on in the highest reaches of our government. He talks about how excited the Americans were to have Kennedy as our President. Although he was stuck on the thought that we were in the war for good reasons, he knew we were not. The ending that is brought up is the death of President Kennedy. Kennedy believed that the war in Vietnam was a just cause. The loss of Kennedy led to the loss of idealism and a growing opposition to the war. When Kennedy was killed it had a very harmful effect on our country we were lost after the fact that someone was able to kill our President. This made war difficult for us because of the loss that we were suffering from. It was the end to a better future that so many were looking forward to.

This story was the best choice for an ending because the loss of Kennedy caused a big turn of events for America. Maybe it did not have an effect on the war but it did affect the United States and it still does. It was the end to a greater beginning.

Both of these selections express a number of different meanings from turning points to endings. Both of these stories' seem to support one another in some ways that happen to bring interest to this subject that we were presented with.

Part 2 analysis was vague, without enough outside info to make your position stronger.