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Internet Testimonies

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, November 5, 2016, 3:50 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Internet Testimonies topic.
To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Internet Testimonies

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Jim Stockdale, former POW's experience as a Patriot

by Nick Cervantes - Monday, November 7, 2016, 8:17 PM

If I authored *Patriots*, I would include Jim Stockdale's account of his interaction with the Vietnamese propaganda expert. Stockdale paints a clear picture of the situation and, in doing so, expresses the Vietnamese attitude of how the war will be won. He recalls the senior officer saying that it's not military strength that will win the war, "it's national will. And when the American people get the idea of what this war is all about they will lose interest in pursuing it." (5:20). It's an important point about perception of the war from different sides. While some American politicians were optimistic about winning, the resolve of the Vietnamese was not wavering. There's some saying about an unstoppable force meeting an immovable object, which the opposing attitudes remind me of. Of course, the United States did stop, but at this point in my limited understanding of the war I'm not sure the war could have ever been won by the U.S. even without the anti-war movement. If the U.S. had poured more firepower and soldiers in for 10 more years, I'm not sure the U.S. ever could have "won." As far as a note to the reader goes, I think Stockdale's story doesn't *need* it in order to be comprehended, but I enjoy reading the backgrounds of the soldiers and I could use an explanation of who the propaganda expert was, as I couldn't understand his name.

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The difficult choices of an Author

by Jessica Fialho - Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 9:42 AM

From personal experience I know how difficult it is to decide what information should be put together in a novel. Plenty of questions come up and honestly there is no solid answer. Will the readers want this? Will this come across the wrong way? There are so many different questions a author has to ask himself. I am sure Christian Appy went through this. Now, he works in a different genre than I have experience in, but I still can understand some of the struggle Christian Appy had to have when choosing which stories to put in his book *Patriots*. That being said I believe Christian Appy did a very well job at putting a variety of Vietnam stories into *Patriots*. For that reason I do not think they should be added into the novel. However I do believe that if another Vietnam war story book was being put together, the stories should be considered for that because they are the personal experiences of a soldier and that's how we can keep history being told.

In regards to it being 2016 and the incidents of spitting still being debated about, an important thing to remember is that it is not possible to please everyone and someone will typically always have a reason to argue. Some soldiers are going to be willing to share their story of being spat on and some are not. This I think is what creates the possibility of still arguing over if it occurred or not.

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Re: The difficult choices of an Author

by Nick Cervantes - Saturday, November 12, 2016, 11:10 AM

It certainly is impossible to please everyone. The Appy book isn't lacking for fascinating stories. The Register-Guard exchanges are interesting, though, because they show how strongly people feel surrounding Vietnam was issues. And they absolutely should continue to debate so passionately; wars are still being fought and veterans are still returning. I assume they are returning with challenging stories to communicate and it is a challenge for those of us who haven't served to understand their experience, as much as someone else's experience ever can be understood.

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Re: The difficult choices of an Author

by Jessica Fialho - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 9:13 AM

Nick i agree, it is difficult to understand an experience we haven't experienced oneself. I think this is what makes part of gruesome images from our past so important to not turn away from. Instead we should learn from them and let it make us angry or sad...etc. In episode 8, Cambodia and Laos they show at the end of the video film shots of the dead. (50:51) Where it is absolutely difficult to see, images help us face reality and understand some of the experiences people went through.

I actually think with the Appy book I wouldn't want to add any stories because of the fact the author has already bound it together. Instead I would want to create another book to gather more experiences and help create more material for understanding some of our soldiers experiences. Especially since it is so difficult to understand experiences we haven't been through. In this second book, I would add the Register-Guard letters and the internet testimonies because of the perspective they give.

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Today is tomorrow's history

by Jessica Fialho - Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 9:45 AM

History is always growing and it will until time itself stops. Today is the day we are writing what's next in history. With it always growing there will be a point when everyone who was physically present is no longer with us. I am thankful this was mentioned in the Bull's-Hit on Vietnam. It is important to remember that people will not always be around to talk about their experiences. It is important that we do take charge and share our experiences with each other so we can have records. Without documenting history a lot could fade in the passing years and the same mistakes can

be repeated. However, if we take the time and share our experiences it helps prevent our past from disappearing. Instead by keeping records we can grow and learn from it. When all the veterans of Vietnam pass, we no longer have the chance to ask questions to the people who have first hand experience. It means going forward we will only have our documentaries and books to learn from

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Re: Today is tomorrow's history

by Peilin Duan - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 5:35 PM

Hi Jessica, I agree with you, just as Abby did in the book, I believe that veterans or people who experienced the Vietnam war directly are good valuable sources for us to learn the history. I think media should help people focus more on them because they are honored and sacrifice their time and even lives for us; with testimonies, we have more objective evidences to analyse and thoroughly understand history incidents from various views of people from different groups.

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Should we believe what the media tells us?

by Trevor Neal - Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 8:14 PM

After watching these two videos on YouTube I think they could easily fit in the Appy book. I would put them in because it gives more evidence from people who experienced Vietnam first hand. As far as the veterans being spit on and not being given support after returning home and the fact that it is still disputed today could be due to the lack of media coverage. Today, everyone has a phone that can video record, and there are so many social network and media platforms that I can't even name them all. If a mainstream news network didn't want to pick a story up it could still go viral on another platform. When the remaining veterans that served in Vietnam pass away, we will lose all personal first-hand accounts of what actually happened and have to rely on what we are told from the media of that time.

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Re: Should we believe what the media tells us?

by Jessica Fialho - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 11:12 AM

Trever thank you for mentioning the difference in technology. For some reason it slipped my mind to consider this difference. I think this is an excellent point and if technology was as advanced and viral back then as it is now, events would have

been different and the disputes about what really happened would be less common. I think the disputes wouldn't go away completely, but it would definitely decrease the arguments of rather spitting happened or didn't.

I think it is difficult to believe what the media tells us because it is geared toward informing and keeping people interested to gather higher views. Although, it can be a great tool to help push out the word of something. Like when the Buddhists used it to spread their protest in regards to Diem. If technology was more advanced during Vietnam can you imagine what people would have recorded just from pulling out their cell phones? Technology will definitely help us keep records of our history going forward. Bull's-Hit on Vietnam is a great example of how we can keep the stories alive even once the people with first hand experience pass away. Putting people's different stories and experiences on the internet is one way to help keep our history alive.

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Re: Should we believe what the media tells us?

by Peilin Duan - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 2:04 PM

Hi Trever, for this question, I used to do a interview for 20 people on campus, all of them gave a "no" or uncertain "yes". Media today is interfered by many factors like governmental, personal and so on. Sometimes I feel, the stories told by small agency are more reliable than that from big media enterprise. Appy included many first hand evidence from people who experienced the war and gave ideas from people on all sides in the book. Also I think Media as the fastest tool for spreading news and information, it is responsibly for digging the truth and remind people of the history.

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Peilin Duan - Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 11:45 PM

The U.S. for the Southeast Asia

In the Vietnam a Television History episode 8 and 10, they talked about the changing of domestic consensus about Vietnam War; the reactions and effects the U. S. had for Southeast Asia as well. At the beginning of the war, the public of the America choose the prevent Vietnam from freedom and the protest group was too small to be noticed; but while the increasing of stress and body count, more and more people stand for anti-war movement. The most general way of protesting was demonstration on the street, hundred and thousand of went out on the street in San Francisco,

Chicago and so on. The idea of “Great Society” had been dragged because of the war, under the huge pressure from the opponent publics, president Johnson claimed that he would not run for next election. The Vietnam issue became the most popular topic for Americans, and the protests were getting stronger, many veterans served in Vietnam came out and showed their disappointment and regrets for going to Vietnam. Meanwhile, young Americans tried to avoid joining the army for Vietnam War, going to Vietnam is another expression of death for them. For destroy the communists and Hu Chi Minh alley, the America started booming operation in Laos and Cambodia, which developing the Khmer Rouge indirectly. To help Cambodia government, many innocent peasants were killed or injured under the boom of the United States. The America POWs were also suffering from the Vietnamese, many villages were sacked by Americans soldier. After America withdraw from the Cambodia, the government lose it to Khmer Rouge and the Prince Norodom Sihanouk went to China.

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Re: Internet Testimonies

by Peilin Duan - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 5:15 PM

Some people may have the illusion that Internet sources are not as authority as off-line materials, but I think it doesn't mean that printed source is more reliable than Internet source. The videos turn out that Internet is also a good place to learn in modern society and they match some ideas of first hand information and personal experience Abby presented. Personally, I believe that new media like TV and Internet arose more interesting and easier for people to learn than traditional media. Internet is also good for keeping record of history which is crucial for human community. History reminds us of the past and help us fix mistakes and bring a bright future.

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How Do You Keep The Story Straight?

by Dan Johnson - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 11:13 PM

There's a film out called Denial about a case in the U.K. that was brought about against an American academic who was accused of libel and slander. A man who sold books claiming the Holocaust was a hoax accused her. It turns out to be difficult to prove from a legal point of view. The Holocaust seems completely imbedded in most people's minds as complete truth; however, some don't believe it ever happened. Truthfully, what most people believe depends on what they trust. If they

only trust facts and ideas that fit their conclusions, they may be hopeless in a lot of cases to change their minds. That's how denial works. A person is actively choosing to not to believe something no what evidence comes forth. I find when there is political agenda or some other agenda involved, people believe whatever they want. Keeping the story straight for oneself is one thing. If an individual comes into something with an open heart, open eyes, and an open mind, then keeping figuring out the truth over time seems obtainable. Trying to keep the story straight for society is another thing. Whatever is in vogue seems to be believed. Trying to keep history together in society is just like trying to keep a democracy together. It takes participation from huge swaths of people. The more people actively processing as individuals history will yield better results just as when individuals are actively processing and participating in their democracy. I don't if there's another way. You can bring a horse to water, but you can make him drink.

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Keeping Vets Stories Available for Future Generations

by Andrew Dellinger - Friday, November 11, 2016, 1:03 PM

I believe the testimonies in both clips should absolutely be included in the Appy book, because their experiences are vital to our understanding of the war. Furthermore, I think it is our duty as Americans to help their stories survive through time. The fact that we still argue to this day whether or not they were spit on is ridiculous. The numerous accounts from vets that were mistreated should be proof enough. The most tragic part is that, like the Bulls-hit video said, we are losing Vietnam vets every day. As a society it's very important to keep all the testimonies of the Vietnam vets for future education. As time moves forward, I hope future students will have the same opportunities we have now of being able to listen to their stories.

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Appy

by Dan Johnson - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 5:46 PM

I would probably include information in Appy perhaps from veterans at the tribute. These interviews could give an interesting insight into the feelings of veterans in regards to their treatment and their process of reconciling past events. For it to be appropriate for Appy, the antidotes should be expanded upon to include more detailed interviews which includes about the wider and deeper view into their lives in regards to the ramifications that the era had on them personally. It would have to include timelines of parts of their lives and interesting anecdotes. It would also have

to include their feelings and how they acted on those feelings. Overall, the Appy including individuals in the positions of the vets at the tribute would be well as long as they could give expanded testimonials.

In regards to the other video, I would include much of the same standard if he were to be included. He could include his opinions on the war, but it couldn't just be his opinions without him explaining on where they came from, how they evolved, and what his purposes are for speaking out. I would also think that Appy would take steps to find out more about his background. He could include his story about the plane ride, but he would also have to include other stories to paint a more vivid picture of his experience. I would stress that Appy has him include specific news stories, events, and documentaries for him to show his process for extrapolating his opinions. I feel it's important not to have people speaking in generalities without having them speaking about a couple of events from which they derived those generalities from. This actions allows the reader to understand the events for themselves and come to conclusions for how they relate to the speaker. Simultaneously, Appy could have him expand on his commentary about the war protesters; how he thinks they should have be responded to, what his views on the time were, where he differs from the anti-war movement, where he agrees, and his views on the US. Also, it could behoove Appy to include where the speaker converges with other movements and thinkers and where he diverges. he should also probably include hoow the speaker is representative of the types of frustrations others felt and the nature of the carry over of general frustration on both sides in terms of those who were there and the generational effect. It would be important for the speaker's narrative to fit into Appy's overall narrative for it to make sense. At the least, Appy could give a narrative in relation to the speaker which could give insight to the impacts of Vietnam, or the speaker would likely lose relevance.

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