

Sitting

willing to write hard-hitting articles that contained less truth than falsehood. He recounted, "In Vietnam I learned about the capacity of the human mind to build a model of experience that screens out even very dramatic and obvious realities." (Appy 205). When Schell was invited along with other members of the press to a false election campaign, he opted to take a helicopter out of the area instead of sit through the "campaign" and report lies back to his country. Schell went from being neutral on his view of the war, with a slight emphasis on believing what he was told about the Viet Cong starting a domino effect with Communism in the area, to someone who strongly opposed what was going on in the war on America's part. Schell believed, "It was hard to maintain that we were fighting for freedom or democracy in South Vietnam since the government we were defending was so obviously corrupt and dictatorial. Even the domino theory seemed to fall apart in the face of intense nationalism.." (Appy 208). Through his own personal experiences and occurrences that he witnessed with his own eyes, Schell discovered that he had an entirely new way of believing, and tried to open others' eyes to the same ideas.

The story that Duong Thanh Phong told of his experiences during Vietnam were considerably different than the previous stories I described. Phong was a photographer for the North Vietnamese and had no prior knowledge of the Americans his side was fighting against. While Phong's job in the war was to increase anti-American propaganda, he hadn't ever met an American. He recalls his first time seeing an American soldier, "For the first time I witnessed an American crying and it occurred to me that the Americans are like the Vietnamese. Suffering is universal. I realized they were human beings, not aliens, that they were like us." (Appy 248). Phong was like many Vietnamese fighting for their freedom who only thought of Americans as alien-like enemies who they couldn't relate to. They were simply told to kill them, and not think about the people living inside the bodies. It was a revelation when Phong saw the emotion coming from his enemy. Although it didn't stop him from wanting the Americans to lose the war, Phong discovered that his enemy was his equal in life.

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Very good paper Kate
Strong, clear theme & story connection