

85/100

Last edited: Sunday, 15 April 2012, 10:26 PM (1352 words)

Assignment 1

Part 1

To ask which individual story regarding personal perspective on the Vietnam War impacted me the most was difficult to make a final choice or judgment about, as I found each account to be highly moving and equally relevant. The story which caught my attention and that I chose to write about was by antiwar movement activist Deirdre English for the simple reason that I related on a personal level to her story. We are both women, I too was seemingly ignorant about many serious issues that took place when I was a senior in high school, and like her, I wanted to be informed and take action in areas that mattered.

nice intro

Sentence?

— The fact that in 1966, when the United States was engaged in a war with Vietnam and English, a high school senior at that time, had not only “never heard of Vietnam” but was also one out of “most Americans” in the same boat at the time (p. 30). The fact that she showed a sincere interest in learning and knowing about the war was deeply inspiring. She chose to educate herself and become part of a hugely significant movement in our history. It is unbelievable that she recalled not being told anything about the war from her teachers. Not only did that raise questions for English, but that also raised questions for me as well. Why weren't teachers informing their students about the war at which time was underway? That she was shocked and appalled by the questions which came up for her at demonstration she attended left me feeling the same way: as if I could have been in her shoes. The museum was glorifying and trivializing that there was an actual war going on by making light of the combat and killings taking place with their “game-like display of dominance,” (p. 30) referring to the helicopters visitors could get inside ~~of~~ and simulate war-like activities directed at Vietnamese communities, particularly peasants.

Like so many others, having seen and heard stories about the Vietnam War and feeling as if I only had a general idea of what it was about; not knowing any of the actual facts as to why we were there, how long we were there, or the numbers of humankind who were killed left me feeling appalled with myself. The fact that the Vietnam War, as English stated, “eventually made people start questioning everything” (p. 31) gave me goose bumps. What a significant time in history to be a part of, to be asking questions of a corrupt government, to be taking a stand for what you believe at many times in the face of adversity. It is amazing, the demonstrations and strikes she took part in. Being one of the first women at her college and barging into classrooms to invite professors and students alike in regards to