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Turning points in perspective are possibly the most influential type, which is why Clark Dougan's account seemed particularly important. We see in his high school years, that he was exposed to the realities of war. Dougan's principal would announce the some thirty-five death's of people from their town over the intercom. However, it's more of an intellectual awareness of the war, with no emotional awareness. Dougan knew of course that war was going on, and that war has some pretty terrible consequences, but it was distant from anything relevant to his own life, perhaps even surreal. When he began college he was still "Kind of oblivious of the war" (305). This all takes a "turn" when Dougan reads the newspaper and learns that Greg Fischer, an acquaintance from high school, had been killed. What makes Fischer different from the other, some thirty-five soldiers from Dougan's home of Parma Heights? Of course, the fact that Dougan had spoken to him, and about going to war too, makes a difference. Deeper than that though, there is a certain mixture that pulls at one's emotions. First of all, Fischer joined the marines. The connotations of the marines carry a lot of weight: honor, pride, true commitment. These things are elevated in people's minds, and so someone associated with the marines tends to also be elevated automatically as well. Then there is his youth, something that seems especially tragic with the quote "P.S. 'Don't forget to give Joey my hockey skates'" (305). Of course you can be sure that many people who read that felt like that could've been their son, or their brother, or themselves. Combine these two things, and what you have is someone who in people's minds is honorable and brave, yet also innocent, that we thus begin to mentally root for - only to have them cut down before they can really make any progress. It's the same feeling as when you watch a competitive show, and you have a favorite that you think deserves to win, but they are eliminated early in the race. It's different than if your favorite made it to the final round, and then was eliminated. There you at least have the satisfaction of seeing them have a good shot at it. Likewise, if Fischer had been older, lived a little, been married and had kids, earned a few honors as a soldier, then

his story wouldn't have been as hard-hitting. This is also why his story was not just a turning point for Dougan's perspective on the war, but also one of the turning points in this media's perspective as well: from supporting the war to protesting it.

As for endings, again this next account presents more of an abstract, emotional representation of the idea.

At the very end of Beverly Gologorsky's story is a really symbolic ending. It's what Gologorsky describes as Vietnam soldier's casting their Purple Hearts and other medals into a trash can. It's not the literal, physical end to the war. Instead, it symbolizes how all things truly begin to disintegrate: in the mind and heart, when they lose support. Of course there's always people on both sides who support or don't support an issue. But for a person to cross the divide between both sides is usually a much more powerful action. A soldier has to be prepared to sacrifice his or her own life, and what they get in return is respect and honor for that willingness. Therefore, for that same soldier to give up the greatest token they have of their country's respect and honor for their commitment seems quite dramatic. Yes, anyone can oppose an issue, and that doesn't always make a difference. But when someone who was truly invested in one side of the issue then seems to experience a genuine change of heart to join the other side you want to know why. As humans we automatically prefer the easy road, and so when someone chooses the hard road we usually assume it's not solely for personal gain and that there has to be some logic, some reason, some truth behind the decision. Is there? Who knows, but it certainly starts everyone thinking. In short, this type of ending, a symbolic ending of an issue like war through the end of its support, is most influential because it is also the beginning for the opening of minds to alternative perspectives.

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