

Travis Jones

90/
100

(964 words)

BoB Gabriel-

The turning point, as far as I am concerned, has to be around the Tet offensive. After reading Bob Gabriel's account of his experiences during his time in the war, and to relentless onslaught that he and his unit encountered while caught in the Tet Offensive, I have to say that it's likely that was the turning point in the war. He spoke of shooting his friend in the foot to get him out of the war, and just the absolute beating his unit took, dwindling down to just three men in a platoon and replacing them with South Vietnamese soldiers. The whole situation just speaks of the beating the US was taking at that time. He spoke of them being holed up in a French bunker for three days, as well as his prior account of having guys just leave him behind as they were running scared.

When the idea of a turning point is brought up and is applied to Bob Gabriel's story, one has to really read into his actions. He never turned south in the war, always kept doing what he had to do, and fought with honor and pride. The overall idea of a turning point stems back to when the US was really put on the run and defeat was in sight. That whole mission was turned over, but the individual soldiers, such as Bob, I personally believe never faced a turning point to where they mentally gave up or accepted an ill fate. His account accurately describes the idea of being put on the defensive by the enemy, leaving no time to regroup or pose a solid resistance and the inability to organize or just fight back, exemplifies even greater the idea of a turning point in the war. Weather Bob ^{5p} Gabriel was intending to or not, he described a near frame of what can happen when an army is put in reverse and has its leadership ability removed forcefully.

circle

huh?
are you
contradicting
Part 1
there

I sort of get your point, but Tet was
a military victory of US & ARVN, right?

One counter argument or oppositional statement I have towards Bob's account is the choppiness of his story, it jumps around a lot and can lead to a bit of questioning as to how accurate some of the information incorporated really was. Its doubtful that Bob was lying in his accounts, it just appears as if he can only recall some portions of the actual events, he himself stated that "when action starts something takes over and you do stuff you don't even realize you do until it's over.". The statement he made leads me to question his personal account a

slight amount, yet overall the events and brutality of the Tet offensive matches up reasonably accurately.

Chalmers Johnson-

mark — The personal account that represents the end (as far as where my own thoughts were geared) was the account of Chalmers Johnson. Having gone from a Kennedy-Johnson, McNamara avid supporter and department head at Berkley and off to the CIA and then to change his views as they related to his stance on the war. Reading his account and understanding the views journey he went through signifies the meaning of an end as it could be described. Chalmers describes the scenes on the Berkley campus and the Maoism and how the students looked like Che Guevara in class. It shows the opposition to the war and how after being so opposed to it then to flip in retrospect. To understand the lies and deceit of the government whom he left to work for, as well the relation to the Japanese around the Second World War and the atrocities they committed and it's relation to the American troops own acts of inhumanity. ? Awk

lacking clarity here

When it came to how he was able to change his views after the exposing of the government's lies and corresponding with his Japanese generals from his dissertation on how the US and Japanese were similar it's easy to see how that could spell the end for the US. The fact that a CIA member would change his stance even years later shows that the US saw that it had not only lost the public war in Vietnam and the United States, but the guerrilla insurgency by the ~~NVA~~ NLF and how they had not won hearts and minds, but alienated a population instead and were fighting a population in the midst of what really was a civil war and not just the excuse of stemming the communism's spread. Awk again

A prime example of how the Vietnam War was lost and how the Iraq war post 9/11 was lost are mirror images of one another. Obviously given slight differences, but in the end the same result. We as a nation made the same mistakes again, losing a public war at home, and a guerrilla war in theatre. The populous was not won in our favor and as such no "real" progress was made as it pertained to the mission objectives of creating a strong democracy and stemming a dictatorship. The economic mission in Iraq was crippled by a national population that resented the US aid and also its tactics as a whole in how they were treated. Though Iraq was relatively free of from solidier inhumanity, especially in relation to the Vietnam soldiers treatment of its native population. Though the argument could be made that perhaps then "end" in the Vietnam war

was drastically different in the case of perhaps the public display at Berkley was not an accurate representation of the national opinion of the war, as northern California was a source of great disparity and divisive sides in opinion of the war. Therefore that aspect of his thoughts can be questioned as what if an isolated case of such public displays of antiwar sentiment? was

was it isolated?

what facts do you have to either support or oppose this position?

Proofread your paper for better readability.

I'm sure analysis is there (because we've spoken before, but it does not come through at times in this paper.

And even though off topic, I'll accept your Vietnam / Iraq analogy attempt, even though the Iraq conclusion may be premature.

100/100

Michelle Coming

(912 words)

On April 30, 1970 President Nixon announced his decision to invade Cambodia. Due to these events many college students across the country stood up in protest. Tom Grace was one of the students to protest the expansion of the Vietnam War at Kent State University. On May 4 around noon a demonstration he attended turned deadly when the National Guard fired into the crowd killing four and wounding nine. Tom Grace was one of the wounded, suffering a shattered foot from a gunshot wound.

OT - Tom Grace's story tells of the events that lead him to be at that May 4th demonstration. It was just an average day for him, as average as it could get in the midst of all the chaos. He recounts getting ready to take a history exam with his girlfriend, Nancy. Because of the vast amount of distractions his professor excused anyone that felt unprepared, so Nancy went back to her dorm, leaving Tom to take his exam. After remembering that there was a noon day demonstration, Tom ~~breaks~~ his promise to Nancy to meet her directly after he finished his history examination and attends the demonstration instead.

The events experienced by Tom Grace marked a turning point for him personally, sparking a fire in him that lead to a greater involvement in protesting the war in Vietnam. Tom Grace says "I honestly can't say that the Kent State shootings altered my political perspective. But it did reinforce an existing one and the anger I felt about it was my political fuel. It really kept me going." (Appy, pg388-389) These events motivated him to not only be a part of more demonstrations but to be more actively involved by handing out pamphlets, making speeches, running meetings and writing handbills and eventually becoming more involved in politics even after the war.

like Tom Grace's recount of the Kent shootings gave insight into an excellent example of a turning point not only for him personally but for many other college students around the country as well. In an earlier story by Deirdre English she states "...Kent State happened, and a whole new atmosphere of seriousness took hold. We began to wonder if the government was not only at war with the Vietnamese, but would go to war with America's own youth." (Appy, pg31) Like Tom Grace many of the anti-war protesters used the Kent State shootings as fuel for their anger. Not only was America attacking the North Vietnamese but they were starting to attack its youth as well, and many saw this as a sign that things needed to change, something needed to be done, and the violence needed to

their own

end. In America's Longest War Herring writes "More than 100,000 demonstrations gathered in Washington the first week of May to protest Cambodia and Kent State. Students at 350 colleges and universities went on strike, and 500 schools were closed down to avert further violence. The Kent State killings provoked outbreaks even at normally conservative and placid institutions." (pg293) The effects of the Kent State shootings went far and wide throughout the country, causing some to change their political views of the war and reinforcing already held political views like those of Tom Grace.

Soon after the incident at Kent State in 1970, the Pentagon Papers were published. Leaked by Daniel Ellsberg, who started to photocopy the documents in 1969, and published by news papers such as the New York Times in 1971, these papers brought to life the reality of Vietnam policies of past presidents, Kennedy and Johnson. "...a history of decision making in Vietnam based on secret Defense Department documents ... The Documents confirmed what critics of the war had long been arguing, among other points that Kennedy and Johnson had consistently mislead the public about their intentions in Vietnam." (Herring, pg299) Daniel Ellsberg tells of his moral dilemma of choosing between loyalty to his government and the best interest of the people that the government serves. He explains all the events leading up to his decision to leak the papers as well as Nixon's paranoia that eventually lead to the Watergate break in and ended his presidency. As another interviewee of Appy, Alexander M. Haig JR., claims "Certain elements of Watergate- like the Pentagon Papers leakage- led Nixon to undertake protective measures which, when added to the break-in of the Democratic Campaign Headquarters in 1972, really proved fatal in the long run." (pg 402)

Being labeled "The most dangerous man in America" by Kissinger to Nixon (Appy, pg 432), Daniel Ellsberg was one of the few to actually read in its entirety, seven thousand pages, the Pentagon Papers. In his interview with Christian Appy he says it "stripped away all legitimate rationales for what we were doing" in Vietnam (pg432). With the publication of these papers it opened up many eyes to the pointlessness of the United State's involvement in the Vietnam War, and the deception of past presidents to keep us there for political gain. They demonstrated the extent past presidents have gone to, to ensure their reelection and the sacrifices of American, as well as South Vietnamese lives to achieve their, seemingly meaningless, political goals. Not only were the Pentagon Papers the beginning of the end of Nixon's presidency but it was the end of America's acceptance to sacrifice their sons, brothers, fathers, and husbands, to what was widely believe as a pointless war.

So you did try to write part 2 on the real end of the war? ... but you did a excellent job. One of the best & ~~well~~ well cited papers I've read this time
* excellent Art

75/100

Kyle Poirier

(875 words)

The Turning Point and Ending to the Vietnam War

The turning point in the war was apparent in the article by Tom Grace, "*As much as we hated the war on April 29, we hated it more on April 30.*" Mr. Grace talks about the rally that was in response to the U.S decision to go to war, which then turned into shooting at unarmed protesters, killing four people. huh?

This was a rally at Ken^X State, which was most likely done by left winged individuals, but after this act of terrible violence was exercised, which in turn ^{ww} brought awareness to people that weren't as aware. This tragedy got publicity, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young even made a song about it called "Ohio." And this was a point when people were realizing that the government was getting out of hand, not just in Vietnam but also in there own country where every citizen should be safe. sp

And even though this wasn't in the country that the war was in, it made a great impact, because this changing of public opinion goes a long way. People start siding with the protesters that are now victims and the point gets across that the war has to be bad now. ^{ANW IC} As far as protests goes this has to be one of the most successful ones because of the publicity it got, but not successful because of the fatalities. But as a point of gaining public opinion it worked very well, most people today know of the famous photograph where Jeff Miller is kneeled over buy a girl. ^{strange} It was a very sad day. ^{sp} ^{NA he died too} ^{explain}

In the article by Judith Coburn, she had great insights in the war and the way the people were feeling. She reported on the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia for the Village Voice, Pacifica and the Far Eastern Economic review. And she was not allowed to get a reporters visa back into Vietnam because of her honesty on ^{pwc} what she saw. For example, ~~when~~ she wrote about how the Communists weren't the ones doing the mass killings in Quang Tri Province on Route 1, but instead it was American navy ships. This honesty from Mrs. Coburn makes her a credible source when looking into the history behind the war. There were two ending of the war takeaways Mrs. Coburn presented, the first was the change in attitude of the U.S. forces and the second was the fact that the Vietnamization wasn't working. ^{click}

The change in attitude of the U.S forces was described most vividly by what she overheard at the dinner table by the Missouri Senator. He was trying to find signs that they were winning the war, which he kept hearing but not seeing. Then ~~when~~, he finally stopped getting the dog-and-pony show when he talked to a colonel in Danang, the colonel said "Well Senator, I'll tell you, mainly I have the feeling that one day soon if I lead my men into battle I might turn around and they won't be there." → winning vs. troop morale

Also on July fourth of '71 Mrs. Coburn talks ^{at} about the dozens of guys in the Chu Lai division who planned an anti war demonstration. It was an "Independence Day Peace Rally," and even though they were told not to, about fifteen hundred of them showed up. Both of these recaps in history tells us where the war was ending. She even mentioned that guys would just sit around and not do anything, making up fake coordinates until they got picked up. These are soldiers that feel like the war shouldn't be going on; therefore having no motivation in actually fighting in it. They just are going through the motions and counting the time until they have to leave.

Another ending to the war was that Vietnamization wasn't working. When the American army was stepping back and the South Vietnamese Army was doing a larger share of the army, they were very unsuccessful, even that they were better armed they got routed by the North Vietnamese. This, like the previously described ending to the war, was due to a lack of heart for fighting that these soldiers had. Many of these soldiers were not loyal to the government because they knew it was corrupt and installed by the U.S. - sounds as if you are talking about Diem (and that would be

Both endings of the war tie together with the same message, when one side that doesn't feel like they are fighting for the right thing is fighting another side that feels very strongly that they are fighting for the right thing, the former will lose. Just like when we fought off the bigger power of the British to gain independence, the North Vietnamese and followers were fighting for their nationalist freedom against outside powers. (Which in this segment of time was the U.S., and just like the British we're a bigger power, and lost.) Our soldiers as well as the South Vietnamese soldiers started realizing that they weren't doing the right thing, and that was when the war was lost. We shouldn't have hung around so long after this because no matter how hard our government tried, this war was now unwinnable.

Paper needs better proofreading. Awkward writing & grammar problems made paper difficult to read. Part 1 was too brief & in both parts, you made claims that were factually incorrect. Still better than your first paper.

Rebekah Rundstrom

80/100

(845 words)

Part 1 – Turning point

~~There are many turning points in Appy's book.~~ Some of the turning points are very political in regards to the war and some of them are in the lives of the soldiers. One of these stories was in the life of a soldier who was involved in the war his name was Lam Van Lich. Lich went to war thinking that he would be a hero helping protect his country and save the lives of many Vietnamese people. He returned, after being away for twenty-nine years, with sadness and regret for the killings that he was involved in. He had some sadness with the killings that he witnessed and was apart of, but that sadness didn't compare to the deep grief that he felt when he learned that his family had been killed while he was away. His mother had been arrested and questioned on numerous occasions in regards to him, as well as his brothers' whereabouts. To make it even more tough on him, his mother didn't even recognize him upon his return. He too mistook his sister as his mother. His mother also told him that she had to keep him a secret from the younger family members. She had to do that to keep the rest of her family alive.

Lich went away to join the war thinking that he would come back a hero, regretting nothing from the war. But twenty-nine years had passed and Lich came home full of regret for taking so many lives during the war. He was returning as a Prodigal ^{son}. He had taken so many lives and destroyed so many families' lives as well. He finally returns home and regrets even more of the killings because nearly half of his family ^{was} gone. When he returns to find out about his family, he begins to realized that he too was apart of killing family members and knows that someone else is going through the same pain because of what he had done while away.

What was his turning point?

Part 2 – Ending points

~~Appy has several other stories of ending points.~~ Some ending points can be seen in the war itself, or even an ending to someone's thoughts for supporting the war. In one of these stories – Chalmers Johnson, a strong supporter while the war was in progress – that was until he realized that the governmental party he fully supported was the one that had it's beliefs all wrong. It is through

AWK

Support for the war?
Johnson's eyes and the reader's interpretation of his story that one could see that the ending for his thoughts on the war was when he realized that he had been supporting the wrong group all along. He says "My wife and I were supporters of Lyndon Johnson because of the war on poverty and the civil rights acts." He later states, "In retrospect, I should have supported the antiwar movement. I'd have to say I wasn't sensitive enough to the moral implications of the Vietnam War."

Nuclear
He goes on to say that he wasn't sure if they, the protesters, really knew anything about the things they were protesting, but later on in life, he realized they did know what they were protesting and he really didn't. He says, "but they grasped something essential about the nature of America's imperial role in the world that I had failed to perceive." Then he says, "The protesters were right and American policy was wrong. I wish I had stood with them." His "ending" is after the war, when he has come to realize that what the protesters were standing for was much more patriotic than what the government was standing for. The protesters were standing up for the American people and the government was standing up for what they wanted America to be. *what was what?*

how so?
It's interesting that he humbles himself, and says that the protesters had it all together and really it was him who didn't have all the logic behind what he believed. It's also interesting that he would have changed his support for the war after looking at the facts, and learning that the government had said, and then that the government lied to the people about time and time again.

awk -
The turning point and the ending point in the lives of the people who went through the war can be seen in the lives that they live now. These results stem from very personal feelings that came from the war. In the life of Lich his turning point was when he came home to find out that most of his family had been killed. In Johnson's life he had realized that he should have been against the war the whole time (fighting against something he realized he didn't even want to stand behind.) He thought that he had it all together, supporting a cause he thought was the right one, and found out that he had blindly believed the government had it all right.

cliche

cliche

Page really needs some proof reading for clarity.

Analysis problems in part 2. His end came long after the war was over. But that is hindsight. I'm guess he still supported LBJ domestically, but not regarding foreign policy. And is his story about his own turning point? Is it an ending? If an ending, then don't we all share in his ending?

David Hartness

80/100

(823 words)

Turning Points in the Vietnam War

The Vietnam War conflict during the late 1960's and the 1970's escalated in ~~rather many~~ various ways. The events that ensued had immense effect on direct military and political support of the war as the American population as well as the South Vietnamese began to lose the will to continue to support such a fruitless war. Moral^{to} support the war was effect by factors such as racism, conflict of interest in American politics, the press coverage of extreme events such as the My Lai Massacre, an Invasion of Cambodia, as well as the Tet Offensive.

The conflict of interest in the Vietnam War could be considered the most diverse war setting in history, whether it be political, geographical, cultural, and racial. The American military wasn't prepared to fight an enemy that could not be distinguished from it's very own ally. Fighting in the jungles had a very high cost on troop moral^{as} they searched for an enemy that didn't have uniforms that could distinguish them from friend or foe like in previous US fought battle engagements ^{or} have the knowledge to understand the cultural differences and willingness of such a poor and technologically unadvanced foe. Events such as the My Lai Massacre that took place in March of 1968 were extremely hard to ignore by the media. The thought of American valor being tarnished by such acts of rape and the murdering of innocent women, children, and the elderly was inexcusable. March 16th of 1968 would be the turning point ^{for} Sergeant Michael Bernhardt. Witnessing and refusing to take part of such events that occurred in the My Lai hamlet would change his outlook on war forever.

"I went back up and when I came out there was Calley, his drawers down to his ankles, and he had a woman kneeling in front of him and he's got a .45 there in his hand that he's pointing at her head. I really, really wanted to kill that guy but there were just too many guys around. I saw him as pure evil." (Bernhardt 351)

War has atrocities, it's merely a fact of life. When you're commanded by you're squad leader to attack the lives of those whom couldn't possibly have true malicious intent such as children, it's hard to make your countries war efforts more justifiable. The reaction's of the media and protest of some of the American public is understandable with the discovery of such atrocities committed by the so called "good guys." Although this can't be seen as the act of all military personal during the war, it is certainly a turning point during the war.

There were many events that brought the end of United States military presence within Vietnam. One could consider that when the very last of the US military presence has withdrawn from the country that the war would be over. The fall of Saigon on April 30th of 1975 would ultimately be the end of the south government and bring forth reunification of Vietnam. At this point of time nearly all American presence has abandoned Vietnam, but this isn't the case for all. To the prisoners of war it hasn't ended until they've been granted their freedom. It wasn't until many months later that the remaining foreign prisoners of Vietnam would be released. The life of a prisoner during the Vietnam war certainly wasn't a luxury lifestyle, but it did allow the continuation of a prisoner's life. The accounts of Jay Scarborough certainly helps define what it means to be a prisoner at the end of the war. The war was over for the Americans, but the actions against the left behind South Vietnamese would be much more unimaginable.

"They only got a bowl and a half of rice a day, which is practically a starvation diet, whereas we were given all the rice we could eat." (Scarborough 474)

It's hard to imagine the conditions people went through as POW's, as some had been treated better than others. Other questions come to mind when examining the end of the war, when there were most certainly other options to have ended it sooner. If the South Vietnamese government could of accepted the Paris Peace Accords, it most likely would of ended the war much sooner. The individuals imprisoned against their will could have been freed, as well as others never being captured in the first place.

The Vietnam War was full of acts of human indecency from each side. With great cruelty produced from start and up until the finish. This event will be a great remember as brutal piece of history, that will hopefully help deter future mistakes in conflict as people look back at these events.

Your incorporation of the series is minimal, & it seems as if you are trying to do what the instructions said NOT to do. The turning pt & end for the whole work. On that topic, your paper is much too brief.

Hao Qiu

80/100

(790 words)

Part 1:

Nguyen Qui Duc lived in a double life when he was young in Vietnam. Outwardly he was part of the elite who believed in the cause of the South Vietnamese, but inside, he was struggling to understand why the enemy was fighting. It was a contradictory life. But when he left his home country, his life ~~has been~~ changed, and turned to a better place.

In the story "I was living a double life", it is not hard to tell how bad the Vietnam War was. In 1968, he was ten, the son of the deputy governor of the five northernmost provinces of South Vietnam. He should have a happy childhood, not like other poor families. ~~He~~ did not need to worry about money, food, clothes, and education. But, his life was not on the right track, the war destroyed everything that he had ever owned, his family, his parents, also a happy childhood that he deserved. ~~It is really to face the fact for a ten year-old kid that his father was imprisoned and marched for twelve years, especially when it was happening at the lunar new year.~~ A family together day turned to be a family broken day is cruel for a little boy, and from then, he had no father with him.

On the other hand, he was caught by western culture which was new to him and his friends. Nguyen Qui Duc was trying to move on ~~on~~ his life. They wore peace symbols and bought T-shirts of American universities. They grew their hair long and listened to western music. They wanted to be cool, and forget the war. And he found out that people are actually nice when they are out of war, no matter what roles they play in war. People learned from others, and loved with others, at that point, they became an adult. And also at that point, Nguyen Qui Duc, he became an adult, his life turned to a new place.

Part 2:

~~To me,~~ the ending of the war is in the story "I didn't know there was a bad war" by George Evans. He grew up in a military town, where all the men had been in World War II, and most of the women in the Women's Auxiliary had worked in factories during the war. His father and his friends told him stories about the war since he was young. When he went to high school, he dropped out of school because his best friend told him they should avoid the draft and the war. And they

went to an air force program. Finally, he determined to go to Vietnam without listen to his friend's advice. In there, his life has been changed.

vw In Vietnam, at the very beginning, he had certain expectations of his government, but, they were exploded almost immediately upon entering the hospital in Cam Ranh Bay. His first job, which might not be a really job, was to clean up two beautiful children's body, who were about eight or nine years old. At that point, he realized that the country he was from was not the country he thought it was. When he found out that the fact what happened to the two kids, it totally changed his opinion about the war. The truth was they had been hit by an American military truck and that there was this kind of game going on in which guys were driving through town gambling over who could hit a kid. From now on, he realized that the war was not a good thing, just like his friend Billy said to him, "I don't care what you do with you life, but do not come here. Stay out of this war. Just forget it. This is the most awful place on earth. There's nothing heroic about it." And the NCO who ordered him to clean the bodies was an awful person, he was completely different from the veterans that George knew growing up, and completely contrary to what he thought he know about men in war and what he expected of them.

George changed his mind that he did not want to stay in military anymore. He ignored the captain's order, and was speaking out against the war, refusing to look like a soldier. Finally, he got to face the court-martial, which released him to freedom. He went back to his home.

The ending of war, sometimes is not the official ending. The ending is when soldiers do not want to fight with enemy, people cannot afford the influences that war brings to them. At that time, everyone wants peace, the war is ending.

What was the "end" for George?
As soon as he got to Vietnam?
The child incident? The refusal to follow orders?
The discharge?

Overall good,
but keep working
on grammar & proofreading
for clarity

Jungmin Um

82/100

(777 words)

Most of the events and stories have four steps in composition, which is introduction, development, turn, and conclusion. Vietnam War was and is a real story that occurred several decades ago and the war cannot be an exception for not having any of the four steps. Every step may be interpreted to individual in a different way. In case of turning point, it is especially explainable in tons of cliché different ways. Some of the soldiers may think of the war's turning point whether their side won or lost. Other soldiers can think of their individual turning point that showed up during the war time, such as family relationship, self-esteem, or anything else that is private. Ending can also come to each person in different ways. Whether their team won or lost, individual may or may not be satisfied with the result or the process of their teamwork and individual tasks.

Family relationship is considered very important to most of people because families are always with them and also families have different kind of love toward family members including more dedication and more forgiveness to name a few. Lam Van Lich's story was the best story from "Turning Point" part of this book. He was out of his house for the war for around twenty-nine years starting from the age of fifteen. In other words, he spent about half of his life span away from his family only for the country. This is the best turning point because he participated in the war for his/his family's country and the result of his dedication and sacrifice of his time, energy, and effort ^{was the} death of his family. When people leave for some work, they imagine of the time in the future when they get back to the place where they were. He must have imagined having a great time with his family after the war; however, when he actually came back, his precious people, his motivation for his dedication in the war, and many other things like hope and other things were gone with the death of family members. "When I returned to the South in 1975 I found that many of my own family members had been killed. The pain of those deaths was greater than the sadness I felt for participating in the killing. (Appy 341)" This cannot be the best turning point because one's life is ruined even after all the effort and time.

Ending of the war can also be understood by people differently. Since South Vietnam lost the war, some people may accept the North's victory easily, some other people can never admit the fact that they lost, and some others may think of why they lost and what was going wrong besides admitting their loss. Truong Tran's story was the best example of the "ending" of the war because he thought of the reason why they lost even with the strong soldiers from the U.S. In

addition, he acknowledges their loss⁶ and he mostly thought of the event rationally and logically. "We could either lose or tie, but not win. (Appy 506)" In every game, whether a small game between friends for fun or a big game between countries, it is important for each side to admit the result clearly without being mean. It is ^{pure} easy for one to think that they might have won if somebody did his/her work perfectly, we lost because on his/her imperfect work because people never want to be blamed by others. Rather they blame others for those people's fault and sometimes even their own fault as well. Nevertheless, Truong thought of the reason of being lost and most importantly he admitted that their side, the South Vietnam, might lose or time, but not win. In other words, he acknowledged North's victory.

The war was a ^{pure} hot issue because of political and economical problems, and it can also be a hot issue for certain people in contemporary world. Many thought can come out from people regarding the war, but unchangeable fact about our lives is that our families are very important to each one of us that it can bring a shock to us when we lose them. Moreover, it has to be a condition set up for all the games, whether small or big, that both sides should admit the result, unless the result is wrong, because if they do not, there is not point of having the game, war, or whatever else it may be. Therefore, Lam Van Lich and Truong Tran's story are the best examples of turning point and ending.

In Part 2
the connector
to the "ending"
there became
vague or disconnected
from your explanation of
the story.

Overall good.
Keep working on
grammar for clarity.

Jennifer Larson

100/100

(760 words)

Turning points can be dramatic, confounding and confusing. They can affect a thousand people or just one person. But all turning points leave a lasting impression on the people who experienced them. For John Douglas Marshall, his turning point was when he chose to leave the military due to his personal beliefs. This turning point is the best example of a turning point in Vietnam because not only does it represent the casualty of war, but it also represents the war within those in the military who felt compelled to fight but then came to find that decision was not the right decision for them. Throughout the term many stories have been studied from the soldiers, stories of ideals destroyed, changes from being a soldier to a protestor and stories of lives lost.

great intro

Marshall was the grandson of a famous brigadier general in the Army Reserves, a man he adored, a man who was deeply woven into the military he had so loved. But Marshall found himself going through the motions when he was in the ROTC and studying the works of peacekeepers, changing his mind about war and violence while waiting to be sent to Vietnam. Going against his family and his history, Marshall appealed to the Army to leave as a conscientious objector. His request was approved and he received an honorable discharge. This was a momentous turning point for John Marshall, and an even bigger one because once his beloved grandfather found out about it, he was disowned. His grandfather found him to be a traitor. This turning point was one that a lot of families experienced during the war – families at odds about the importance of war, some feeling it necessary to serve their country while others believed peace was the answer and that violence would solve nothing. Families were destroyed by the war, not only through the trauma of death and dismemberment, but from the emotional wounds that were caused by beliefs that did not align with others. This was true for John Marshall and his grandfather and was an important turning point in his life and in the Vietnam War.

nic job.

Christmas Eve 1994, almost thirty years after he left Vietnam as an American soldier, Wayne Karlin returned for a meeting of Vietnamese writers, all veterans of the war. Karlin had not been back to Vietnam since he was a helicopter crewman in 1967. But 1967 was not the end of the war for Karlin, as it isn't for most veterans. The war didn't end just because they left Vietnam, were discharged from the military and went home to their families and friends. The

war continued to rage on within their souls and for some, ^{it} still does. They don't talk about it, don't want to relive it, don't even want to think about it. But in 1994, Karlin did all of those things. He sat down with the Vietnamese veterans and they began to talk about the war, where they were in the war and what year. As the men talked and drank throughout the evening, Karlin and others found themselves reliving moments of the war, getting caught up in the emotion of the situation. At one point Karlin found himself with images of the POW's being marched through Hanoi and at that moment he began to lose it. The veterans surrounded him, protecting him and helped him continue up a hill they were all climbing. This was the beginning of the end of the war for Karlin. It was the beginning of his healing. He stated "There are so many things that aren't finished, the hard truths and damage that need to be faced and acknowledge... on the other hand, being with those guys who just pulled me up the hill, I felt like that's what it takes to start." (p. 548)

Even though this was almost thirty years later, this is Karlin's end of the war. For many veterans, they may never find an end to the Vietnam War. They will be haunted until they take their last breath and so it is hard to say where the end of the war truly is. For the government, those who didn't serve and those who weren't even born yet, the war ended almost 40 years ago. But for the soldiers who served on both sides, the war rages on and finding an ending is as much work as being in the rice paddies.

Best paper
I've read to
for.
1st time
has closer
for part 2 in
the past 5 years.
well done Jennifer!

85/100

Athena Miller

(736 words) - min length

Part 1

my only concern was this mention at the start of the paper, & I was left to assume everything else. (or I assume you are a military "brat")

Nguyen Qui Duc story has a great personal resonance. There are three significant turning points in his story. The initial turning point is his first encounter with the enemy. The shock of seeing the enemy when you have felt relatively safe and separated from the war and have it literally come banging on your front doorstep can be very terrifying. It changes everything in the perspective of a child. The boogeyman is real, it's after you, and you can't run to mom and dad to save you because it's after them too. (Also, the mixed feelings of fear and admiration in regards to a supposed enemy and the realization that they are human, they believe in their cause, and they feel they are actually helping you.) ns The awareness that the boogeyman is just like you can shake the foundation of an adult let alone a child of ten. The comprehension that his father was being taken away and the helplessness of the situation of not being able to do anything about it but hope that he would make it back to them one day would be hard to accept.

The second turning point is his recognition of the destruction of the bridge over the Perfume River. This signified the nation to him, and its destruction broke a piece of his heart. He felt betrayed by his fellow countrymen, even though they were from the North and their ultimate goal was to reunite Vietnam as one country, how could they destroy a symbol of their nation that had such historical and cultural significance. It would be the same if the United States had a civil war and one side desecrated the Statue of Liberty. Some would feel that it was a major offense that a national icon was destroyed that represented a piece of our history and culture. It signifies a turning point because it changes how one views the standards of fellow countrymen and their values of what is important to them. Certain symbols in history have deep meaning to many and the destruction can either cause a defeatist nature or a willingness to avenge said symbol.

The final turning point is his realization that he didn't actually fit in with either the Vietnamese or American culture because neither fully accepted him. The sense of not fully belonging to your native country or your adopted country

can leave a person with a sense of disconnect. This is difficult to be around people who are the same but not. The closeness and warmth are missing and can cause great sadness in some. For example, a military child is moved all over the world and has a hard time relating with individuals who have lived in the same place their whole life. When the parent of the child retires and they move back to the place where the rest of their family is, they feel segregated. Everyone knows everyone else; the military child feels like they're a stranger looking in. It's a sense of belonging but not.

you?

Part 2

In Frank Snepp's story his ending point is when he was heading to board the helicopter. The final nail in the coffin was when he witnessed that the North Vietnamese army was only about a half hour away. They were so confident they hadn't even turned off their lights. The defeat and guilt of leaving so many people behind must have been hard to bear. The knowledge that you can't do anything more to help and the sense of betrayal to the people who had helped in a common endeavor being left behind to fend for themselves. There's a sense of finality to the whole situation...of lost hope and despair. (The knowledge that you personally were more concerned with the job then the knowledge of human lives was at stake would weigh down a person conscious even more) The fact that he didn't even save his own child and the mother is a sad event, but does display that personal motivation was not an issue. He wasn't trying to be selfish to help only the people he had a personal acquaintance with, but the whole by trying to convince a "recalcitrant ambassador" to get the evacuation plan moving. This may not be a comfort or make the guilt go away but he did try.

unclear

Part 2
too brief to make your
point ... an "ending" or
Snepps
"guilt"
(or lack
thereof)

Skyla Brocks Smith

82/100

(725 words) - *man length*

Part 1

? This turning point was triggered by an article in the Cleveland Press titled "He Was Only 19—Did You Know Him (Appy, 305)?" This article was about the death of his classmate, Greg Fischer. Dougan was hit with the realization of how easily it could have been him who had died had he joined the military or had been drafted. He described the article as "the moment when Middle America really turned against the war (Appy, 306)."

? *nuclear* The turning point presented in Clark Dougan's story was eye opening and changed the perspectives of not simply himself, but of the whole community. The story represented a turning point by showing how the community changed after an eye opening article written in their local newspaper, *The Cleveland Press*. The article had posed the underlying question of how many more lives would be wasted before the war would end. It reflected a feeling that had spread across the working-class community. The editorial talked about an ordinary, average community member that went off to serve his country after graduating high school and was killed in action. During that time, it was very random on who would be selected to be drafted into the military and chosen to go to war. There were no significant factors that excluded young men from being drafted. Although there were many deaths from the war, they did not create an extreme reaction like the death of 19 year old Greg Fischer, in whom this editorial was about. The editorial included a letter from the young man to his family on what to do if he had not returned from Vietnam. The fact that the article was written negatively towards the war was surprising to many who read it. This is because the paper that held this article was part of a chain that strongly supported the war. It created a large reaction from "middle-America" in the form of anger toward the war. The story states that even World War II veterans who encouraged the young generations to "fight for your country (Appy, 306)" started to think and say that so many deaths were not worth being at war. Dougan felt that he had a significant eye opening moment after reading his article due to only one conversation with Fischer prior to graduation. It was surprising that the marker for Fischer's grave was only a plaque while being surrounded by many marble headstones. With the amount given for his death insurance to his family, it would seem that the costs for a "better" gravestone would be covered. Yet the plaque was chosen to be simplistic and only state the dates of his life, his name and "Vietnam". *awk*

I'm not sure what you are setting at here.

Part 2

unclear
SP A noticeable ending found in John McCain's story is when he decides that the American people involved in the anti-war movement are doing exactly what he was fighting for the Vietnamese to be able to do. This moment represents the original purpose of America's presents in Vietnam. The major goal that the U.S. had in mind was to build and maintain South Vietnamese independence, while fighting to deny victory to North Vietnam (Herring, x). McCain's realization of what he was fighting for signifies the fight for freedom and independence. - ? *PT*

Upon arriving home, McCain had a change in his outlook in regards to the anti-war movement after learning of the depths it had reached. Before this, the anti-war movement was not significant to him (Appy, 482). During his capture, he was wrung for confessions of his war crimes, yet even after enduring the harsh torture McCain still strived hard to keep fighting and not give up. The anti-war movement surprised McCain the most. While imprisoned, the Vietnamese guards had spoken of the movement, though he didn't believe the rumors because they had been known to falsify information and tell the opposite of the truth (Appy, 481). Once McCain had processed the, at the time current, depth of the movement, he was no longer angry or resentful towards the movement itself, but at the excesses. To have held resentment against those who believed the war was wrong and wanted to exercise their rights of freedom of speech, would have been wrong because that's what American is supposed to be about (Appy, 482). - *Awk*

*Part 2 lost the
end of war focus.*

*Some grammar & awkward
wording made your paper difficult to
follow at places.*

*Part 1 = great
Part 2 = not so much*

*But overall better than your
first paper*

Ian MacDonald

82/100

(705 words) - *man length*

Part 1 - Turning Point

Soldiers One of the best examples of a turning point that I found after reading part four in *Patriots* was the My Lai massacre. Larry Colburn's story in particular was pretty moving. He really described the incident in quite a bit of detail. The massacre at My Lai represents a turning point in the feelings that the Americans (or at least the brigade of American troops that were in My Lai) had towards the people of Vietnam. It shows the amount of hatred and desire for revenge that some American's came to have for the enemy. As ~~Larry~~ Colburn stated, "These guys were really out for revenge. They'd lost men to booby traps and snipers and they were ready to engage." I can only imagine that this was most likely how many - *AWK* other American troops felt as well during the course of the war. To get to know fellow troops and become close friends and then having to watch them get shot or blow up right in front of them, it's really not that hard to see why some troops came to have that much anger built up inside. Another example that comes to mind similar to the events at My Lai only not on as high of a scale, was the village raid talked about in the episode *America Takes Charge*. After being - *good* pinned down for an entire night trying to avoid enemy gun fire, the Americans went into the village and were pretty forceful with the local villagers because they were trying to figure out who was the enemy and who wasn't. Aside from being a turning point in the feelings of some of the American troops, the My Lai massacre also represents a turning point in the feelings of Larry Colburn himself. It changed his outlook on his fellow Americans. He says that, "We did our job and when we had to kill people we did. But we didn't do it for sport." He later said that he understood what it was like to want revenge, but couldn't believe why they had chosen innocent civilians most of which were women and children.

loss of focus with the theme, by the end of the #

Part 2 - Endings

For many troops (both American and Vietnamese), the end of the war came almost every day for those who were killed or lost in battle. So to find one specific example of an ending is a little challenging. One example that did come to mind after reading part 5 of *Patriots* was the stories from the prisoners of war. In a sense, it was the end of the war for them, because many of the prisoners were caught and imprisoned and the ones who managed to stay alive weren't released until the war was nearly over. For a lot of the prisoners, it felt like the end. It was all they could do to try to find something to rely on or think about to make it through each day. John McCain who was caught and taken to Hoa Lo Prison in North Vietnam, said that it was important to have spiritual faith and faith in your country because the Vietnamese, as a way of trying to discourage them and make them give up sooner, would often try to make them believe that America had abandoned them. He stated that it was also important to communicate with fellow prisoners and hold somewhat of a sense of humor. They would make fun of their captors to try to have more dominance over them mentally.

The veterans that spoke in the POW video clip described their experience in much the same way. It felt like the end was very close to them as well each day they were imprisoned. Communication was a huge relief for them. The Vietnamese tried to keep the prisoners separated, however many of them found ways to communicate with each other through a specific "knocking" system and were able to find strength through knowing that they were not alone. Some prisoners did not survive, but the ones who did were eventually released and were able to tell their experience of how the end had almost come for them.

Strange connection
to the theme in
part 2. Not
convincing.

But, good use of other class
materials, making this a
much better paper than your
first one.

80/100

Melissa Booth

(652 words) - less than min length

Assignment #2

Part 1

When thinking of a turning point that someone experienced during the Vietnam War, Clark Dougan comes to mind. The turning point in this story is not any specific event that occurred in the war, but some news he received that hit him personally. Before receiving the news, he never really thought too much on how the war was going. In fact, he was quite oblivious. In the story he even mentions, "So I go off to my first year in college and I'm really kind of oblivious of the war." (Appy page 305) It wasn't until he received news that an old friend from high school past away that he began to realize that there was a war going on, and people were dying. What makes this a turning point is the fact that he personally realized that people are dying in that war, and was it worth it? The fact that he knew someone that he went to school with that died made him realize that it could have been him that died. Many more people were dying, and for what? What makes this even more shocking is the fact that he noticed that a newspaper that supported the war, and would never write such an angry article, began to write about different people dying, starting with his friend. The war was becoming more realistic to Clark. Not only is this a turning point for Clark himself, but it is a turning point for America. (Even the newspapers were beginning to write about the deaths occurring at large numbers) and the newspapers that Clark read were extremely conservative. People were beginning to question whether risking our soldier's lives for Vietnam was worth it. Clark even said, "I think a lot of World War 2 vets who had been sitting around their kitchen tables saying, 'You've got to fight for your country,' were starting to say, 'Fuck this. It's not worth Greg Fischer's life or his buddy's life.'" (Appy page 306) Basically, people were beginning to realized that many of the soldiers were dying left and right, and for what? Is it really worth the risk? This was the turning point for Clark Dougan.

sq

no hypo?

they had been already

yes, his paper.

red No hypo?

no & yes

unclear jungs

Part 2

revealed?
The story about Truong Tran told a story of a personal struggle for the ending of the war. He experienced a lot during the war and saw firsthand how it made

AWK

people act towards one another. He mentioned that, "In our province, if you followed the Communists you became a very committed Communist, and if you followed the nationalists you became an ultranationalist. It was either you die or I die." (Appy page 504-505) Once the war was over, he wanted to get his family out of the country. He probably knew that if someone found out what side they were on and who they supported, which was with the Americans and South Vietnamese, they could possibly get killed. All he wanted was to make sure that his family was safe. "I had promised my father I would take care of them regardless of what happened," said Truong. (Appy page 506) Sometimes it is harder to move on with life unless you know that you are safe. Personally for Truong, once he could get his family out of the country and be safe, then they could move on from the war and be done with it. Then they could end the war. So, once the family was out, the war ended for Truong and his family. If he could not succeed with getting his family out, it was not something that he could live with. There are probably some families out there who are still fighting the war. — ? hwh

ns — Fighting to have equal rights, be safe, and be accepted. Truong and his family were fortunate to have the ability to get out and start new.

Weak conclusion to Part 2

An improvement from
your first paper.

Brendan MacDonald

80/100

(618 words) - less than min length

Part 1

The person whose story stood out to me the most in Part Four of ***Patriots***, and gave the best example of a "turning point" in the war was that of Larry Colburn's. Colburn was a helicopter door-gunner who helped eliminate the amount of killing during the My Lai massacre. One quote of his that really stood out to me was when he says; "We did our job and when we had to kill people we did. But we didn't do it for sport." It is almost as if he is saying that up until this point in the war, they only killed when they were under attack and their lives were at danger. That is one reason in particular that his story stood out to me as being a "turning point" because by this point in the war they are obviously so enraged that they are acting irrationally, wasting innocent lives of civilians that are no threat to them. He goes on later to say that "The only thing I remember feeling back then was that these guys were really out for revenge." He says that he understands the desire for revenge but cannot fathom why it was taken out on the kinds of harmless people that it was. Another part that really stuck out to me and really made me grimace as I was reading was the part where he is explaining seeing a Vietnamese woman crouched in the grass and telling her to stay down and quiet. When he returned later, she had been shot through the head. I think this story not only represents a turning point in the war for Colburn personally, but also a turning point for the American military as a whole because after the My Lai incident, soldiers were seen in a different light by society. And many people including a lot of the soldiers themselves wondered how they had been driven to such a state of anger and carelessness. Colburn states that it wasn't simply murdering civilians; but outright butchering them. (It was a very shocking thing because nothing that brutal had ever been executed against so many harmless people by the American military until then.)

Part 2

The story in Part Five in which I thought gave the best example of an "ending" of the war was Nguyen Khac Huynh's. Nguyen served as a career diplomat for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1954, and later was part of the North Vietnamese delegation at the Paris peace talks from 1968 to 1973. He says that right after the famous draft agreement of October 1972, a basic understanding was met and

every member of the delegation that Nguyen was a part of believed that peace was close at hand. But very shortly afterwards America wanted to reopen for talks after an agreement had already been reached; and furthermore renewed their bombing plans for that December. As he is explaining all of this, you cannot help but feel the sincerity in his tone and how disappointed he was when the attacks carried on even after he thought that they had settled on an agreement that would bring about a peace. Even after an agreement was met once again in January 1973, the Saigon government refused to sign it saying that they did not recognize the presence of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. You can tell it was obviously a very frustrating process to go through of trying to reach an agreement because it had to be acceptable to multiple parties. That is why I thought this story gave the best example of the "ending" of the war appearing to be close at hand.

this is a good example of an approved communist propaganda point of view

↑ better analysis needed here

sounds like anything BUT an "ending"

You made the case for your theme in Part 1 but not Part 2

Georgia Haskell

(562 words) *below min length*

78/100

While reading Part Four in the Patriots book, I found a turning point in Larry Colburn's story. He was crewman on a scout helicopter. Their job was to go look for the enemy and leave a smoke signal and the gunships would take care of them. They also kidnapped draft age males for interrogation. On the day of the My Lai mission, they were flying over the village looking for vietcong and would leave green smoke signals to let the Americans know someone was wounded and in need of medical attention. They realized later that the soldiers were just killing the wounded along with everyone else in the village. They were killing everyone and there was no enemy in sight. The helicopter pilot landed and approached a captain; telling him there were civilians trapped and asked how to get them out. (The captain replied with a grenade. The pilot had his two crew members aim at the forwarding soldiers) until he could get the civilians out with the help of a gunship. This story is a turning point in that the mind set of large groups of Americans had changed and the brutality of the war had reached new heights. This wasn't just one sick man that happened to be a soldier in the war. This was a large group of American soldiers that were doing unimaginable things. I think this is probably an effect of what they had suffered through for so long and the frustrations overall of the war itself, however there is no excuse. This signifies a turning point in the actions, thoughts, and moral standards of the soldiers in the war. (There was a clear division among those people who had moral standards still and those who did not.) It was also a personal turning point for Larry Colburn who saw his fellow soldiers, in his words, "butchering" innocent people.

lacking depth of analysis.

The example I chose for an "Ending" was Steve Sherlock's story. He was pro war until he actually got there and then he saw first-hand how wrong our being there was. That with his compassion for the Vietnamese as people, and how he was willing to stick up for them even at the cost of his career; led him to get involved with the Vietnam Veterans against the War. The VVAW held an all Veteran protest in Washington D.C in 1971. Their purpose was to "focus public attention on the fact that veterans who actually fought in Vietnam, and had been decorated for it, were opposed to the war and that it wasn't unpatriotic to be fighting against a wrong and harmful policy". The point when these men threw their medals away in the protest was huge. It signified how seriously they cared about ending the war. This probably was very symbolic for them personally as well. Helping them let go of the things that they had done in Vietnam that went

against how they felt, but they did anyway because it was their job. They were also saying to the politicians that these medals would not cover up or sugar coat the real atrocities that were happening anymore. This huge protest symbolized the end of support for the war among the people, not just anti-war protesters, but also veterans and families who lost someone.

) all
soldiers
did not
feel the
same way.

Much better than
your first paper,
but still lacked
development & clarity.

You had more words available
to explain things more thoroughly.

Pls generalize

75/100

Andrew Lavengood

(504 words) - *far below min length*

21 There were many different turning points throughout the Vietnam War: whether they ~~are~~ personal, in the nation, in the war, or in politics. One such turning point is illustrated by "Memorial Day 1968." The narrator describes the feeling of having some small town, ordinary kid die in the war, and the town's reaction to it. It describes the feeling that the country began to experience overall about weighing the cost between winning the war and sacrificing more of their children. Prior to the 1967-1968 era, many people felt that the Vietnam war was a war worth fighting. There was a real and pressing danger in the minds of the people, and they were willing and ready to send their sons and, if necessary, themselves to the front line to protect democracy from communism. However, as time wore on, people began to weigh the costs of defending some tiny country across the ocean against the lives of their sons and themselves. It didn't seem worth it anymore. People began to turn on the war because of totally innocent kids, like Greg, being killed in a war that seemed remote and unimportant. This shift was so monumental, in fact, that it could be argued that it was the most important turning point in the war. LBJ had long relied on the public support of the war in order to continue waging it. However, when the public turned against the war, he lost all of his support, and thus the support of Congress. It became an unpopular war. (It turned from a war of containment to a war for peace.) - ?

very vague & generalized

22 "The merriment was short-lived." This statement alone describes the feeling that was left with both North Vietnam and the United States at the end of the war. For the North Vietnamese, the merriment was short lived for the reasons that Le Minh Kue described. She contrasted the unity between everyone during the war, and the detachment afterwards. She used the contrasting cultures that she experienced to cite the end of the war. When the war came to an end, so too did the unity that they experienced the sense that they could rely on one another unquestioningly. It went from a patriotic culture to a culture of consumerism. While the principle was the same in the United States (the idea that merriment was short-lived), the reasons were different. For many, there was merriment that we had finally pulled out of an endless war. There was merriment for the lives that would no longer be lost. However, this was quickly overshadowed by the gravity of the war and what it had cost. People quickly went from celebration to mourning and resentment. The true ending of the war was not in the merriment, but in the resentment. The years that followed afterwards saw the people of both the United States and Vietnam resenting their government. It's sad, really, that the war had to end not in merriment, but in resentment on both sides.

Again, very vague. Was there a tech problem or time issue that affected this paper?