

Part One:

Ta Quang Thinh's story has great impact due to his point of view about the war. It may be unclear to some readers exactly which side of the war Thinh fought for, as the narration simply states that he went south as a nurse. Because we know that many of those who lived in the north went south for religious or political reasons, it is not clear which side of the war he was helping with his medical training. The fact of which side he worked for is less important than the message behind his story, which stated his disillusionment with the war in whole, and the great toll the war had taken on his life and country. This account was reliable as a first hand narration, despite the time which had lapsed since the events took place. Thinh could still recall the name of the patient he was checking on at the time of the bombing, as well as the protocol they used to carry Thinh back to the North. These facts show objectivity that supports Thinh's credibility with regard to the account. The fact that this story could be told years later in such a way as to make the reader feel that they too were there, and that the confusion over the reasoning behind this war was felt by all sides, makes it an account which had and will continue to have a great impact on those who read it.

3 sentences

not really an analysis of credibility

Part 1 too brief

Part Two, A:

The account by Richard Olsen was disappointing in its delivery. This soldier was in Vietnam for a very specific purpose and recounted this experience as a very nostalgic, positive time in his life. Olsen was there early in the war and did not claim to see the ugly side of the war. He spoke of the differences between Vietnam soldiers he encountered from the north and the south, but did so in a way which gave a light-hearted tone to it all, as with the soldiers in the south having their "siesta" time. He also recounted an almost comical exchange between he and another soldier when the South Vietnamese soldiers wanted to leave their post with a deceased comrade. This attitude doesn't appear to give the proper respect to the experience of many others who were in Vietnam at the time, and could make one feel that Olsen must have lacked the mental or emotional ability to fully appreciate the grim circumstances he was in.

he speaks for himself, not others

The narration which follows his account tells another story. Olsen, an artist, is talked about in relation to the art he created, and it becomes clear that the account of comical and light-hearted reminiscence may have been a cover for the reality of the experience. Olsen may have said one thing, but his art was telling another story, a dark one. Even though the attitude he portrayed is disappointing, there is redemption in the possibility that Olsen was a veteran who continued living after the war as best he could- surviving on rose-tinted stories of the good old days, while reliving the harsh reality in his art.

Interesting story choice. Here, you think Olsen lies to the reader, but author Appy's "art story" that follows offers an explanation of Olsen's lies.

Part Two, B:

You conclude with a positive note, although this was supposed to be negative.

The account by Ngo Vinh Long was one which showed that Long may have been able to see the worth in the war, but how another truth was able to be seen when Long looked at things from another point of view. Even though his father became disillusioned with the benefit of the war and the United States' role in it, Long had a hard time falling in line with these ideas, due to very different ideas which his father gave him when he was younger. He was young and found it difficult to see that the United States would be anything darker than the place of beauty he had grown up dreaming about. He was, as the story shows, the embodiment of hope within a time of great challenge. It appears as though, with the experiences he had while assisting in map-making across the South, Long grew up. In doing so, Long lost some of the fairy tale ideals that he grew up with. This loss for Long involved his positive view of the U.S. and the war in general, and shows that he was able to come around to the opinion which his father had come to some time before him.

This change of heart was the pivotal step in changing the path of Long's life. This is a story which showed the humanity and love between father and son, and embodied the goodness that those in the midst of this struggle were capable of. It also served to highlight how one boy was able to see a new truth, use his life to move for change, and symbolize a small part of the potential for good which came out of the war.

even though he came to a different / opposite
conclusion from his father?

A few organizational issues caused
problems in your paper.

You did have another 3-400
words (100-1200) to take your
time and explain your points
more clearly.

Overall, good first paper effort.