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The Turning Point – Nathan Houser

Nathan Houser's story ~~to me~~ was the best example of a turning point. Nathan experienced quite a few turning points during his life and especially while the war was going on. His first turning point had to do with how he viewed the government. After Kennedy's assassination he learned that the Secret Service was concerned about the possibility of a coup happening in the United States and this idea had never occurred to him before. He also heard on the radio during an interview with the Dallas chief of police that the person who was suspected of being the assassin had done some work for the FBI. This information caused Nathan to distrust what the media and government was telling the people about that situation. When conspiracy theories start to develop about major events that occur it causes one to question or not believe what they are being told by the media or the government because it could all be a lie or a cover up. The next turning point in his life had to do with politics and his belief in God. While attending a religious college in Indiana he began to realize that he did not belong there. He slowly began to lose his faith in God and then one day he just stopped believing. This turning point, while it may seem small to some is a very big one in my eyes. Religion is a subject that many people are passionate about, whether it is that they believe in God or that they don't, and for someone who has grown up believing in God their whole life to just stop believing one day is a major turning point. I think that learning more about politics also affected him because he realized how selfish and false they could be. Many like to believe that the government is going to do what is best for the people and the country but it can also be perceived by some that they are only concerned with themselves and not what is best for the people. Another turning point in his life occurred when he chose to move to Canada to avoid the Draft. He reasons for not enlisting had nothing to do with fear of war or anything along that route. He simply did not want to fight a war that he did not agree with or believe in. He felt that it was wrong and it seemed that the United States was not really fighting for democracy in Vietnam. It takes a lot of courage for a person to completely leave their family, their country, and everything that they have known in order to stand up for what they believe in. While he tried to visit his family in the United States as much as possible without being caught and arrested he did not move back to Indiana until 1983, fifteen years after he had first left.

The Ending – George Evans

George Evans story is the best example of an ending to me. His ending however dealt more with his belief in the war and the military than the actual ending of the war. George grew up in a family and community that were heavily involved with the military. To enlist in the service or be drafted when they were of age wasn't anything new for kids in his neighborhood. It was something that was expected. He had spent many times with his father and the other veterans when he was young and had come to realize that war had a profound effect on their lives, even after it was over. When it was time for him to be drafted his best friend Billy convinced him to join the air force in order to avoid being sent to Vietnam but Billy failed the physical and eventually ended up serving as a medic over in Vietnam. After being stationed in Africa and returning back to the states George was determined to go to Vietnam. Billy warned him against it and a month after that George received the news that Billy died. George took Billy's death very hard and after

his death George went to Vietnam and discovered how messed up everything there really was. Having grown up around veterans he had certain standards for how men in the military were supposed to be and after arriving in Vietnam his whole perception of the war and the soldiers in it changed. Some of the soldiers were completely opposite of what he expected and it slowly caused him to change how he felt about the military. After having to clean a dead child who had been hit by a military truck he found out that supposedly some soldiers played a game where they gambled on who could hit a Vietnamese child while driving through town. After he found this out he still did his duty as a soldier but he felt betrayed and upset with the war so he chose to stop looking like a soldier and to speak out against it. During the last three months of his tour a new company commander began to target him because of this. He had an altercation with the commander one morning in front of the entire unit because he refused to follow the orders given to him. At this point he decided that he was done with the military and the war. After the altercation he was given the choice of signing an Article 15 admitting guilt or to be court-martialed. George chose the court-martial because he did not agree with the Article 15. Before his court-martial he took a week of R and R and contemplated deserting but by the end of the week he decided to go back for his court-martial and he was found guilty of being out of uniform and fined seventy-five dollars. He realized that all of the threats about being court-martialed and what could happen to him were an act. On his last day of service the captain tried to convince him to confess guilt to the previous charges in order to clear his record but George refused and went back home. George's story clearly defines an ending to me because his childhood, his father, and his community seemed to make him destined to serve his country and he didn't have any objections about it. Yet when he finally went to war in Vietnam and seen what was going on and what it was really like to be in a war it changed how he felt about the military completely and ended what he had believed in while growing up.

Part 1
The "turn points"
in his life lacked
a well-analyzed
connection to the
war, esp. the
religion claim.

besides the intro sentence, the rest of part 2
is simply a
narrative retelling
of the story.
Lacking analysis.