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**Determining the Truth**by [Joe Escobar](#) - Saturday, 3 October 2009, 04:48 PM

This is a history class. We are trying to determine what really happened in history. How do you/should we deal academically with conflicting information? How can your two textbooks help you to approach this video information and be confident that you are learning accurate historical knowledge?

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Determining the Truth**by [Tiffany Adrian](#) - Monday, 5 October 2009, 02:02 PM

When watching Accuracy in the Media Part 1, I wasn't surprised to learn that some scholars objected to the historical accuracy in the PBS videos. I think people academically should approach all information that is seen or read in the media scientifically. For example; when I search the Internet for information I am looking to learn, I don't always believe the first web site that I click on. There is a sea of information, from people who are experts with non biased information, and those who are biased trying to tell you one thing while selling another. When looking for accuracy in the web. First look at the site itself. Has it been hastily put together. I look at the credentials and references of the author of the website. At last which i think is the one of the most important to research, is to see the currency of the website. If it has been updated and is current. I think this is important because historical information is collected over time. People's accounts, witnesses of events, and documented reports in someones point of view can change and evolve . We might learn something now that we didn't know then, that could change people's perspectives about history. History changes all the time and we have to learn it to keep up. I think it is always wise to get multiple sources of information. Whether it be from books, or the media, the more the better.

In media it is harder to be accurate because in ways, the documentaries come off false because of the way the director's cut the movie or leave out information. Even if experts are behind the making of the PBS Documentary sometimes the point of view through television can become inaccurate. I tend not trust what I see on television. I would rather get my information from several books written on the topic then just base all my information on one source. I am glad we have the PBS documentary about the Vietnam War it does give insight of the point's a view twenty some years ago, but now I am sure new information has come to light, which makes the PBS seem farce in some areas.

If we look at the PBS documentary and our two text books Christian Appy's "Patriots", and "The Longest War," we can decide which information is accurate in the PBS documentary and the historical information that is inaccurate. I do find it interesting that the one scholar from Berkley said that the PBS documentary seemed to imply that Ho Chi Minh was a nationalist first and a communist second. The PBS documentary did imply this a few times. In the text books he is known more as a communist, for he did acts of violence that were more communist then Nationalist. This definitely is a conflict of interest for both sides. Once we view all the information for ourselves we can come to a conclusion on what is historical and what is farce. Since both text books are different from one another, where one is an interviewed historical first hand experience of the actual people involved in the Vietnam Conflict, and the other is a Historical reference to the Vietnam War, they both should be able to help guide us to the truth. I think it is great to be able to teach ourselves not to be so open minded about what we hear or read, but rather be objective trying to come to an understanding of the real truth of the Vietnam War.

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**Re: Determining the Truth**

by [Paul Slaughterbeck](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 09:21 PM

You mention that the text book says Ho is known more as a communist than a nationalist, because he did acts of violence that "were more communist". This seems to be a viewpoint and belief that we are all supposed to inherently hold: communism = evil. Why? Haven't acts of atrocity been performed by almost all governments of every type of philosophical make-up? Was the Diem run, American backed government really any different than the image of what we think of as a Communist state? In fact couldn't the impassioned speech given by Nikita Khrushchev against American imperialistic ideology and practice be a just argument? Could the greed associated with Capitalism one day do as much harm to the world as any done by Communism. Has it already? To me, this is fascinating stuff.

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**Re: Determining the Truth**

by [Tiffany Adrian](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 10:29 PM

I agree as well, this is fascinating. I don't necessarily hold the view point that communism is evil, although when taught about what communism was at an early age, I always thought the way it was explained always was biased and negative, giving me the impression that it was evil and wrong to be a communist. Your right atrocity has been preformed by almost every government including ours. I believe our government is corrupt and that the greed of our nation is absolutely impacting the rest of the world.

A lot of American's take for granted the opprutunities that are given in this country. I do think that Capitallsim could do more harm to the world then communism, for our greed and ambition is killing the earth and fueling wars for a cause that is based upon greed itself.

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**Re: Determining the Truth**

by [Brian Hein](#) - Thursday, 8 October 2009, 08:08 PM

You make a great point about the material needing to be recent, I did not think of this. I do wonder if a perspective that is more recent can be changed to reflect the position of the ones writing it. A sort of bias of history written by the victors. I also had some questions about of the premise that only the communists were being voilent, and this was not the mark of a nationalist. It seems rather clear from the reading that both Ho Chi Minh's and Ngo Dinh Diem's government could be violent even toward their own people.

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**Re: Determining the Truth**

by [Evan Look](#) - Thursday, 8 October 2009, 08:43 PM

I can see how media is often inaccurate due to the cutting of certain material that the director chooses to remove for whatever reasons. Documentaries are often not complete in their coverage of events and usually just show a preconceived thought or supported belief. Similarly when I research something online I have to verify any possible results I find with at least two other sites to get an accurate answer.

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**Re: Determining the Truth**

by [Evan Look](#) - Tuesday, 6 October 2009, 09:22 AM

Easiest way for anyone who is attempting to find specific information on a subject is to utilize multiple sources to find an accurate consensus. Textbooks, videos, individual research and reports will usually vary somewhat depending on the subject at hand. It is not difficult to believe that information concerning conflicts or war events

will have some discrepancies. Most media has a lean towards its agenda of promoting or degrading events as they seem fit.

The assigned text books for this term contain information from not just one source or side of many events during the Vietnam conflict. This variation in information makes it much clearer and realistic than the normal one-sided battle scenes we see everyday on the news or in papers.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Tish Bottensek](#) - Friday, 9 October 2009, 02:22 AM

Evan,

I completely agree with you. In my opinion some information found in text book can be bias and not complete in the information provided. Your idea of doing further research to gain knowledge regarding the subject is a good idea. I also believe speaking with veterans who have experienced the subject first hand is a good way of gaining a better understanding of the topic. I too agree the reading provided for this class allows us to gain the needed knowledge from two separate sources. Often the news candy cotes the subjects for fear of scaring the public. War isn't a pleasant subject; however, it happens and the stories of those who risk their lives or lost their lives needs to be told.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Patrick Brady](#) - Friday, 9 October 2009, 07:24 AM

I agree with you, and even when you read or view alot of material from different viewpoints there will be a chance that some of the stories will correspond with each other.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Daniel Baszler](#) - Saturday, 10 October 2009, 07:39 PM

Hello Evan,

I completely agree with you I also feel that you should find multiple sources to reasearch your subject. I feel that if you reasearch a subject well you will be able to decide for yourself what is true and what is not. Now there will always be different views so what you feel is true may not be true to someone else. I also feel you are right it seems that war is one of those subjects that is hard to figure out what is true and what is false because if you are researching it you were not there and everyone has a different view of how they see things through their eyes.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Eric McCorkle](#) - Tuesday, 6 October 2009, 09:35 PM

The way I go about conflicting information in any subject is I gather as many sources as possible (which you have already done) then I try and process credibility, the source, and my own common sense. This one is tough thou because PBS in my eyes is a very credible source but taking in account the Accuracy in Media video, I would have to agree with the Accuracy in Media film. Even thou I haven't watch the whole Vietnam: A Television

History I feel that the way it is narrated makes it seem very credible.

As far as the text book go, they help compare the movies and if two or more sources are telling you the same information it makes me very confident that I am learning accurate information

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Amy Wells](#) - Thursday, 8 October 2009, 10:09 PM

Hi Eric,

I feel that you made a great point here, it is very important to find as many resources and reasearch, and compare. You can find that using common sense is a great help. I also agree with you that as I watch the PBS shows, which we all relate to because at some point in all our lives we watch something on PBS and associate it with learning, my only thing is just because the do a good job at sound cretible sosen't mean they are. I am not saying they are lies I am just saying that in today technology it is easy to make something look like education, even make it look like it was real footage that was takin in the old age when in actual it was takin a week ago in some studio. We really just have to find as much information from different sources as decide for ourself what we believe is true but know one really knows but those who live the history.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Brian Hein](#) - Tuesday, 6 October 2009, 09:58 PM

I have always been one of those people who looked for a reason to question what I am being told. From this I have learned to look for several things when trying to determine for myself whether or not an article or program is giving a fair and accurate account.

When presented with conflicting information from different sources I generally look for at least another source that will give more insight to the questions I have. In the reading for this week both the books, *Patriots* and *America's Longest War* both give accounts that coincide with each other. The DVD episodes also follow the information given in the reading. This amassing of information generally gives credence to the information given in the reading and DVD's.

Another thing I look at is the sources cited. When reading the books I look to see who supplied the information that is being used to confirm what is being written. I am one of those who look to see if the person is knowledgeable and an authority on the subject(s). This was one of the problems I had when viewing *Accuracy in Media*. Although some of the persons interviewed could be viewed as authorities on the subject, not all were. A good example of this was one of the persons used as an expert near the end of the show was a professor of Speech Communications who was not directly involved in or a scholar of the Vietnam War. Most of the footnotes given in *America's Longest War* were from people directly involved in the decisions or discussions pertaining to the topic.

The DVD series, so far, does generally follow the readings we have been given. It is this commonality of information that leads me to believe what we are learning is an accurate portrayal of the history of the Vietnam War.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Daniel Baszler](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 10:28 AM

I think academically we have to deal with conflicting information, by wading through all the politics and misleading info by both governments, and going straight to the people that were there and had a fairly good grasp on what was going on. Of course in every war you're going to have conflicting info, because both sides want to look like they were in the right. The United States was out to crush communism and North Vietnam was out to sustain a way of life. I believe the textbooks help, because most of the writings are from both sides, so you don't just see one side of the political and military issues on both sides, also you see it through the eyes of the people who were there and lived it, you can't get a more closely accurate account than that.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Patrick Brady](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 01:36 PM

I really like your approach to finding truth where information has conflicts. In the Patriots book some of the people didn't know much about why they were fighting, and their points-of-view are very important too.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Glenn Dalgleish](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 03:22 PM

I agree with this and think it is an accurate way of determining information. The people who were there know what happened and what didn't happen. They knew what it was like for all the others who were in their same position and those who fought in the war. Their stories are factual and have truth. They would not lie about what they saw and experienced, since they probably would want others to know what they went through and how they are still affected by what they saw. Those who were there will never forget what they had to endure and they will be scarred for the rest of their life. Although the war is over, the memories still live on in the minds of those who are fortunate or unfortunate to still be alive.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Paul Slaughterbeek](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 09:36 PM

What is interesting and important, however, is that the people that were there did not always have such a firm grasp of what was going on, especially of the bigger picture. We can't bypass the misleading information coming from the government and go straight by what the people that were there say, because what they say and believe is already possibly tainted by the misleading information from the government that they may well have taken as fact back then.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Brian Hein](#) - Thursday, 8 October 2009, 08:25 PM

This is a great point, but I do not feel that the people interviewed generally were affected by the government's position of the war at that time. Many of those interviewed did not understand why they were even there, also it seems they told their story told from their own perspective not always putting themselves into the best light.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Eric McCorkle](#) - Saturday, 10 October 2009, 08:42 PM

I strongly agree with looking at both sides of an issue because when you only have one side of view it's very hard to compare and see which side is more accurate. One thing I don't agree agree with entirely is when you say looking through the eyes of the people who were actually there doesn't get anymore accurate. The people that were there may have a strong bias of why they were there and what had gone on, so when telling their story you too will get that one persons emotion toward the war.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Kayla Wilcox](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 11:04 AM

The Vietnam War was a highly controversial war. I view the information presented as another side of the story. People have different views about what happened. When information is conflicting, I try to look at it as another person's take on a subject or issue. I think that the textbooks and the video information are all essentially parts of different people's accounts of what happened. I can't know for sure exactly what happened so I have to rely on the research and stories that people have shared and then try to figure out what my take on the issue is. I don't view history as an exact account of everything that happened at a point in time but the things that are taught about that time may all be true; just true to a person who saw it differently.

I am confident that the information we are learning is accurate because the material is generally presenting the same ideas. The main differences in the material is people's opinions.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Robert Nicholls](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 02:56 PM

I definitely can agree with you about peoples opinions. I feel that history is pretty much everyone's point of view and opinion compiled to make a scene. In order to get the best overview of a scene, we need to look at it from every point, and i think that is exactly what is happening with all the different resources we are given. They are just simply different opinions and points of view.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Evan Look](#) - Thursday, 8 October 2009, 10:26 AM

I concur with your posting about the main differences in material is the opinions of their stories or depiction of events. Some stories will sound harsher to the listeners if it describes events that injure or kill several people. On the other side it may sound like a valiant and courageous event that earns a medal for their duty. Information is always going to vary to some degree based on reporters or observers biases. We always heard about how soldiers were dying during the struggles in Iraq but rarely every listened to the people that we were helping there. I had many kids and adults that would tell me daily that they were happy we removed Saddam and thankful for us being there for them during my tour in Baghdad.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Tish Bottensek](#) - Friday, 9 October 2009, 02:27 AM

Kayla,

You made some very good points. I too agree that you can't believe everything you read completely. In my opinion, it is important to look at all sides of a subject. It is important to take in the information for what it is

and know that there is more to the story. You can only learn so much from textbooks and watching videos. I think it is important to actually talk to those who have experienced such topics as war first hand. The most accurate account of the experience will be from those on the front lines that lived the experience. I know there are many stories that will remain untold, but to grasp the full extent of such experiences is to learn from a living person rather than reading about it in textbooks.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Patrick Brady](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 12:33 PM

How should we deal academically with conflicting information?

When I watched *Vietnam: A Television History* and then watched the Accuracy in the media video I saw a lot of conflicting information. Some the PBS series made Ho Chi Minh look innocent while the other video said that Minh had people assassinated who did not share the same views as he did. I believe that the book *Patriots* by Christian Appy is one of the more accurate resources that I have used in this class because so many of the stories connect to each other and have backbone. As for the PBS series I have to cross reference with the other books so I can see if the information given is accurate or not.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Paul Slaughterbeek](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 09:42 PM

Even if we take it as fact that what we are told is true, we must also cross reference to see that as much of the information as possible was given to us. As was stated in the question, telling half the story (even if true), and selectively omitting contradictory facts is not lying, but it is deceiving, and they are two sides of the same coin.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Robert Nicholls](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 02:38 PM

dealing with conflicting information has always been a problem in school. I feel that with history it is even more involved because all of what history is, is the information from the past. I think that the only way to really deal with this issue is to take the two conflicting statements and look at the past history of that resource. Some resources are a lot more reliable than others, and therefore can be trusted more. However, I do feel that the bottom line is that you will never "really" know exactly what happened in history. The fact that the war happened is a 100% true statement based on facts, but to know exactly what happened in the war would be impossible, because you would have to be everywhere at once for the firsthand experience. The stories and writings are all believable to a point where you really have to look in depth at the exact time and situation and see if everything lines up.

I feel that with the two books and the video, it is important to keep an open mind and question the actions. Especially these days, there are so many opinions influenced differently through the media. I do feel confident in the movie, based on the past history of "American Experience." I am a little more skeptical of the books. More author research and reviews are necessary in order to become more confident with either of these books for me.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Glenn Dalgleish](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 02:51 PM

With conflicting and contradicting information, it is challenging to decide what and who to believe. I believe that we should look at both sides that argue what actually happened and what was said to have happened. Since I do not know much of the war, it is hard for me to say whom I believe, because both sides give arguments, which seem feasible. I do not understand why the PBS series omitted certain information, especially since they probably knew some facts, which would better explain the Vietnam War. I can use my two textbooks and the conflicting information to make sure I'm getting the right knowledge by comparing what the two books say, what the PBS series says, as well as the short video clip that has contradicting information. I think that the Patriots book gives very accurate information; because people are telling their stories from their life and it wouldn't make much sense to lie about something like the Vietnam War, especially if you fought in it and wanted people to know what it was like to be there. The book by George C. Herring, is more challenging to fully back up, since it doesn't give 100% accurate data and doesn't have information or evidence to support what it says, although it is factual by going along with what happened. By reading the books and watching the video I believe that I'm getting accurate historical data on the Vietnam War.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Amy Wells](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 04:06 PM

I feel that the best way to teach a subject like this is to present all the information the good the bad and what some may say is not the truth. I feel that if you give every student the information they can then determine what is the truth or not by what they learn. There is always going to be different views and we should be able to see or read each view and decide what we believe is the truth. I find that I put more weight in the books just because I feel that these are people's words. When we look at the video yes it looks true but the video itself states that there were lies given to the public to make each side look better to their people so it is hard to know what is real and what is fake. Even if we go back and say this is what happened we already have those views in our minds so it is hard to know what is real and what is fake. I feel that what we learn is as accurate as it can be at this time. Everyday we are always learning new things and things change. As long as we stay informed and learn as time goes on we will always be able to decide for ourselves what is true and what is not, and as time goes on we may learn things that change our mind. I feel we all just need to keep an open mind and learn as we go.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Kayla Wilcox](#) - Friday, 9 October 2009, 01:25 PM

Hi Amy,

I agree that presenting all the information can help determine what really happened. Since we weren't there we can't be sure. What we learn and read about though can help us determine what we believe is true. As time passes so do stories. I guess it kind of reminds me of the game Telephone (or Gossip). What may start out as one thing ends up as another and it changes from person to person (like viewpoints). Once the information gets to you, you have to decide what's true to you.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Robert Lund](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 07:45 PM

Dealing with differences in historical facts, data, quotes, et cetera I believe is up to the individual to search for the truth. It is one thing to learn the basic facts in Elementary and Junior High School but by the time you reach High School and College you know 'not to believe everything you read' and seek out the facts. Even before the internet and the

technological advances in the last few years there is and are many resources available to get to the bottom of things, I think generally speaking people are lazy and take it for face value what they read or hear for the first time and leave it at that, that is the truth. It is up to the individual to seek more information, read between the lines and figure it out. I am fairly certain in this day and age with the internet that it is all the reading that some people do and what they see on the web is "Scripture", well if it is on the internet it must be the truth, that is too bad!

I noticed in the heading for this forum response that our instructor mentioned when he first taught this class over ten years ago that the PBS documentary was the basic outline for this class, that my guess is when you completed that course that you knew how the Vietnam War went down, if it is on PBS then good enough! I respect him for digging deeper, getting more and more literature, especially the Patriots book which is one of the few US written books I have read that has presented the other side's viewpoint and researching other sources for us to read and watch and develop our own ideas and beliefs on what really happened during the United States involvement in Vietnam. I think that by having us read two different books, watch the PBS videos as well as the Accuracy in Media video and any future videos that it gets us thinking and not just accepting everything you read or here are the actual facts, would be nice to live in a world where everyone told the truth and recalled events and happenings as exactly as they occurred but then on the other hand it sure would be boring too. All this being said, ultimately you are going to believe what you believe, all seventeen of us in group one as well as the rest of the class could come away with thirty four different beliefs and opinions on what really happened in Vietnam, even when we are presented with the same information, it is up to you to dig deeper, be it a history class or whatever!

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Anthony Foreman](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 08:27 PM

When faced with conflicting information both sides should be taken into consideration and viewed from your perspective and through the perspective of the conflicting sides. When there are multiple resources at your disposal the theme most repeated would make the most sense to be true. The facts presented through our books and videos feed off of each other in a way that instills confidence i am learning accurately.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Paul Slaughterbeck](#) - Wednesday, 7 October 2009, 09:02 PM

When dealing with many different, and sometimes conflicting, pieces of information about a period in history it can be difficult to translate it all into historical fact. The truth is, however, that this is exactly what needs to be done to accurately relate a historical event. We need to hear the details and stories of history from many opposing viewpoints so that we may sift through it all and, possibly, glean some truth. One of the first steps in this process should be to try and separate the facts being told from the opinions of the teller. One great and wonderfully simple example of this can be found at the end of the interview with General Vo Nguyen Giap. He mentions how Robert McNamara (former U.S. Secretary of State) refers to the Vietnam War as a tragedy from which we need to be able to draw lessons. This seems correct enough, and one might even call it fact, but it is not that simple. Giap sees this conflict, not as this tragedy, but as a "war of noble sacrifice" (Patriots). For example, would we, as Americans, call the Revolutionary War a tragedy, regardless of the fact that many people lost their lives during it's waging. Mostly, as Americans, we would not. Clearly we have run into a "fact" here, that is not such a fact, but an opinion. This example points out how crucial it is to read reports of history fully cognizant of who is doing the reporting, and from what perspective they might be seeing the situation. Another example of an opinion parading as fact can be found in the video presented by "Accuracy in Media" that we watched. In an interview with Edward G Landsdale, in Saigon, he asserts many things about the popularity and prestige of soon to be appointed South Vitnamese leader Ngo Dinh Diem. He was asked to go talk to the people and find out what they thought of him. This is the language he uses to try and convince us of his opinion (that Diem held high esteem with the people of South Vietnam). "... (I was) asked to go check with the Vietnamese I knew and find out some things about Diem... (he was) very well known, by them. Everyone that I talked to felt he was, perhaps, one of the best known living nationalists in the country..." Here are the

questions I have. Which Vietnamese did he know. Did he know and hang out with the urban aristocracy; the city people? Or did he go to the beleaguered countryside and talk to the farmers, where it is now known that many sided with Ho. Were the people he was talking to giving him answers that he wanted to hear, after all he did already have relationships with them. Also look at his use of weak language. "...felt he was, perhaps, one of the...". We are hearing a story, and expected to believe it, when the participants in his version of the story themselves don't even seem to feel very convicted of what they are saying. It seems like this is here-say being molded to fit into an argument. We do, however, have a tool to help us, and that is our textbook. It may have some biases as well, but they stick more to credible and substantiated facts that we can use to read between the lines of what is told to us in the Appy book or in the PBS videos. In short, we have to keep our ears and eyes open, and question everything with some skepticism. This includes, even, what you think you believe to be inherently true as well!

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Brian Hein](#) - Thursday, 8 October 2009, 08:47 PM

Nicely put. There is always the possibility what we read or see is being presented in a way to alter our opinion. Rather to inform and instruct by presenting all of sides of a story and let us decide what is true, opinions are given as truth or only certain segments of the information is given which supports only their view. You are right, we must keep ourselves open to all possibilities.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Tish Bottensek](#) - Friday, 9 October 2009, 02:13 AM

In my opinion history is best told by those who have lived it. I believe students would learn more and grasp a better understanding of history by learning speaking with those who have actually experienced the topic at hand. In storybooks and history book often information is conflicting because it is told from a second hand point of view. Opinions regarding the topic are gained from information researched and can be inaccurate. Those who have experience in such topics will have a more accurate truth. I believe students should be forced to speak to war veterans to get a feeling what it was like during war times. The information would be mean more if it came first hand.

As for the reading, the professor will provide such reading material that would reflect an accurate account of the information. As with any experience, one person may have a different experience than another thus providing a different point of view regarding the situation. As the student learns the information, it is up to them to take in the material and listen to both sides. If there are any further questions, they can discuss them amongst themselves or in forms.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Brian Hein](#) - Friday, 9 October 2009, 06:43 PM

I think you are right about the best information is from those who lived it, a good example is the *Patriots* text. The problem I see though is that the limited exposure each individual has to the war. They only get to see what is a small part of the overall picture and this in it self could lead to confusion when others have a different view of the same instance. What do you think?

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Robert Lund](#) - Saturday, 10 October 2009, 05:11 PM

Brian,

While I somewhat agree with you about the limited exposure per se I think that the personal experiences is the best measure of what really went on, yes it could be the individual account I think it represents the experience overall, whatever battle, struggle, went on, from what I have read and the people I have talked to the war pretty much represents the struggle of everyone involved. It really did not matter if you were from the US or Vietnam, my guess is that the war affected you in the same way and was not pleasant, regardless of what country you were from or how you were involved.

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Re: Determining the Truth

by [Robert Lund](#) - Saturday, 10 October 2009, 05:35 PM

Tish,

I agree, history is best told & recounted by those who were there, so much get lost in translations the accounts to those authors much later and those who are just looking to sell books and make a profit. As far as the instructor providing the material to portray an accurate account I am not so sure about that, while Joe wants us to learn and challenge what we have read and heard he may or may not have a personal interest in what we read or watch. I truly believe at this level it is our (your) responsibility to dig deeper and get to the facts, why should we necessarily believe the booklist or videos our instructor gave to be the best information out there.

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