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In my opinion, the story that best explains the "turning point" of the war is by Barry Zorthian. He was, "in charge of all media relations and served as the principal public relations adviser to the U.S. ambassador and the commander of U.S. forces." (Appy 290) He was in Saigon during the Tet Offensive and knew firsthand what had happened and what the affects were. His story best explains the turning point, because he describes the lasting effects of how Tet changed America and our view of the war. General Westmoreland gave a speech in 1967, during which he said, "that the beginning of the end was in sight and that in the next two years we should be able to reduce our troops in South Vietnam. Well that was interpreted as claiming enormous progress. Then-boom! - Tet comes along after all those reassurances that things were improving and the impact of those multiattacks was devastating. If I were in Congress I'd feel the same thing- what the hell are you saying?" (Appy 292) The American public was being fed bullshit and they just didn't know it, until something like Tet came along and gave them an opportunity. Walter Cronkite even said that the war is in a standstill and we're not going to win, which then persuaded LBJ to say that if he had lost Walter Cronkite, then he had lost Middle America. Zorthian even recommended to Washington that they go to the Vietnamese government and said, "either get your act together and start performing better or our responsibilities to our citizens and our country require us to pull out." (Appy 293) Our government was shaken and the public was no longer supporting LBJ, like they had before. More people were starting to ask questions and this put pressure on LBJ and others in Washington. People started realizing that we probably wouldn't win this war and started looking for a way out. The Tet Offensive was the turning point in the war and because Zorthian was in Saigon during these attacks, I believe that his story best explains the turning point of the Vietnam War.

The ending of the war can best be explained through a story by Nguyen Ngoc Bich. He was the director of information at South Vietnamese embassy in Washington D.C. from 1967 to 1971. He also gave speeches at numerous colleges during the late 60's and 70's, which was during the peak of the campus protests, and spoke in defense of the South Vietnamese government and its U.S backed war against Communism. Bich was usually faced with protesters and antiwar groups, who would often disrupt his speeches. After a speech, he was approached by a few students who wanted to talk to him. Following their talk, one of them said that they had never had a real discussion with anyone about the Vietnam War. Bich does come across universities where there were people who were supportive of the war, but the majority of colleges were filled with protesters and antiwar groups. Especially after Kent State and other similar incidences, people really started to ask questions. Bich recalls of being asked by one man, " why should my son die for your country?" (Appy 420) The people were not feeling the same as they had years earlier. With LBJ's public support was decreasing and the want to get out of Vietnam was increasing. The less the public and the people as a whole support a war they are not if favor of, the more likely it is that they will loose. There were many questions raised about My Lai and Lt. Calley. How can innocent civilians be murdered and only one person go to jail for a few years. I believe that this story best describes the ending of the war, because he gave speeches at many colleges around the nation and was confronted with antiwar protesters almost everywhere he spoke. The peak of campus protests happened during the late 1960's and early 1970's. These were young Americans stepping up in numbers to deliberately speak against a war they knew was wrong. If the people are not behind their government and especially a war that their government is involved in, then it is almost certain that victory will never be reached. The antiwar movement, changing

public opinion due to new information, a change in power in the government and many other things led to the realization that the Vietnam War was a mistake. I think that many people were deceived into believing some sort of propaganda and when they finally saw the truth they were pissed. They started asking more questions and protesting against the war escalated, which was the beginning of the end for the United States and Vietnam.

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