

From Vietnam to the Television: Communicating the War

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How did you choose your topic and how does it relate to the annual theme?

We wanted to pick a topic that was still somewhat prevalent today and we thought about how the media is one of the most influential types of communication to this day. Once we decided that we wanted to do something relating to the media Luke Chandler also requested that it have something to do with a war because he finds those interesting. We all agreed and our history teacher gave us the idea for Vietnam. After doing some individual research we decided that it would be great for this year's competition. Vietnam relates to the theme this year because it was the first televised war. Meaning that people back home in America were able to see the atrocities that were taking place and truly just how bad the war was.

How did you conduct your research?

We conducted our research through multiple different steps. In the very beginning we just said to find good quotes or pictures that could be used in the website as more of a general source. Then once we made our outline we divided up each part and did the specific research for each of our individual sections. The research was mainly conducted using online websites and scholarly sources.

How did you create your project?

We created our project in different parts. The very first thing that we did was decide on a topic and write our thesis. We then wrote an outline for the whole website and divided up the work. Beckett's main focus was on writing a few of the sections and completing the bibliography. Luke's job was to write some of the paragraphs and set up the layout for the website. Vienna helped write some of the paragraphs as well and went back through the website making it more visually appealing. Then at the very end we all went through the whole website together making sure that everything was perfect and we were happy with it.

What is your historical argument?

Our historical argument is that the broadcasting of the Vietnam war led to division back home between the American people and eventually to the end of the war and removal of troops.

In what ways was your topic significant to history?

Our topic was significant to history in many different ways. One way was that it brought light to the brutality of war because it was actually televised. It also shows how not everyone is perfect especially through the My Lai Massacre bit. No one would have thought that their military would have done such things but they did and it goes to show how people are not perfect. As well as that the Vietnam war was a war that almost nobody wanted to be a part of. In order to have enough soldiers, thousands of men were drafted and back home many Americans could have been found rioting in the streets and protesting against the war.