

Dennis Shaw Student Worksheet 4- The Time Stamped Transcript

Directions: As you view your assigned section of the transcript, type each word uttered by your veteran interviewee. Words like “um or so”, or colloquialisms like “you know what I mean?” do not need to be included.

Transcription of Words	Time ended
<p>“My name is Dennis Francis Murphy Shaw.I am Irish.I am the son,grandson,brother, nephew,and cousin of combat veteran going back to the early 20th century. His grandfather on mother’s side served in the Spanish American War, grandfather on his father served in World War 1,his father was career navy and spent most of his time in the pacific...”</p>	<p>1:00 Minute</p>
<p>“..during World War 2 so I was a navy brat bouncing around navy bases till I was 10. I was able to win a scholarship to college. I went to a 4 year school in New York State and after graduating from that college I volunteered at the Peace Corps and that meant filling out a bunch of paper and going through a series of test. At that time people who volunteer for Peace Corps were accepted for training. In September of my senior year of college there was a front page story in a Buffalo Evening News about an American who had been killed in Vietnam. That event was so big at that time in September 1995 that was a big front page deal. In February 1996, I passed through Peace Corps training,was accepted for service overseas. I spent 2 years in Ecuador.”</p>	<p>2:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“I taught 5th and 6th grade in Spanish in a rural school house and moved into the city of Guayaquil and I helped form what we would call a credit union. They would call a corporate itela. In 1998, I came back to the United States. I was 27 years old. There was a time when I was younger than that. I was 25 years old and I found a job with what was called War on Poverty Office of Economic Opportunities which was a living Johnson program in the 1960’s. I was living in Upstate</p>	<p>3:00 Minutes</p>

<p>New York with a community action plan involved with migrants and my great accomplishment was in the year I was there was I organized a health clinic for migrants that met twice a week. We at local hospital had no space and laboratory work. We'd..”</p>	
<p>“..Strong Memorial Medical School send in interns twice a week. We'd had the Head Start bus take us into the camps and bring to the people. It was an extraordinary project and very educational to meet people much older than I was. I was 25 then who had never seen a doctor or never seen a nurse and spent all their life in the fields and was very educational and it folded into what I'd learned in Ecuador about life in most of the world. So,I spent my 25th birthday, On my 25th birthday I had a part time secretary and i had a staff of 40 people. I had a head start school and a neighborhood youth corps and the clinic that was meeting twice a week in a small town in Upstate New York and I thought that draft..”</p>	<p>4:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“...board would leave me alone. Unfortunately, I was naive and I did not get registration changed so we are talking about the mid 60's now when every person who turned 18 had to register local draft board and that local draft board had great leeway and who got differed and who didn't get differed but I thought college graduate, return volunteer peace corps surely they won't want me. However, surely after Nixon was elected in November 1968. I got a notice in the mail and they did want me and I said no you don't want me I'm too old. You want young guys. Take someone who's 18 but I was. It was a great dilemma. My father a decorated war hero from World War 2. All the men in my family have served...”</p>	<p>5:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“... with few exceptions. What was I going to do? I had a job which I thought was doing really good with the migrants health clinic. I didn't want to leave that. I was 25. I had a Churro Thunderbird and a 22 year old</p>	<p>6:00 Minutes</p>

<p>girlfriend and I thought the Army should leave me alone. So, there was no good choice. I went to Canada to talk to the people in Toronto and they said you could come over if you want to but don't expect a welcome. People in Canada are not really excited about Americans trying invading draft that way. So, I made a moral decision to go into Canada and answer the draft call and I thought if I was inducted into the Army on Whitehall Street, Manhattan, he would send me across the river to Fox, New Jersey and then on the weekends I could get on a bus to come back to New York City and be with cousins and college friends..."</p>	
<p>"So, I did that. I was inducted in White Hall Street in the Lower Manhattan and they put us on a bus, took us to the airport and flew us to Georgia. I spent basic training in Georgia advanced infantry training in Fort Polk, Louisiana. NCO academy in Fort Benning, Georgia in the summer. 10 weeks in Fort Carson in Colorado in the fall and in January 1970, I went to Vietnam. My military specialty was infantry operations and intelligence and my job was to stand in a tactical center and put pins in a map for video reports to keep the paper going. Unfortunately, the army must always put out the small print because for that military occupational specialty the small print said reconnaissance. So I wound up in a recon platoon."</p>	7:00 Minutes
<p>"We were supposed to have 40 people but we had 25 people. 9 of those people were wounded or killed and I was there 10 months and 16 days and less than 11 months. I spent my 27th birthday with that unit. The guys were 19 and 20. I was the only college graduate. I was the only one who had ever been out of their hometown or my hometown. Most of them had not traveled and I was in Peace Core 66-67. My college friends had been in Vietnam at that time and they were very discouraged with the war and how it was being conducted. So when I was teaching kids in</p>	8:00 Minutes

<p>Equador, they were in Vietnam when they were writing me about what this strange war was for. What we were going to ge outof this?So I was not a big fan of Vietnam even before I got there.”</p>	
<p>“So I got to Vietnam and I had a terrible time. I came home and I visited the guys who came home before me and I visited the friends who had been wounded and a particular friend who had lost a leg. I stopped of to see him in Burmingham, Alabama before I flew back to New York State and then I spent 10 years trying to get over the guilt of that war of I had been trying to be a bettersargent if I had been sharper,smarter and NCO.I could have protected the guys in my unit from getting hurt. I could have saved Jem David from stepping on that land mine. So I had a lot of guilt which is guilt that...”</p>	<p>9:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“...turns out it was just excessive responsibility. I thought I was responsible for a lot of things that really were not in my venue as a low E5. It took a long time toget over that and I finally came to grips with Vietnam after I had moved to Washington and the physiologist who had a group of Vietnam vetrans who had joined family therapy and he had found that all of these family problems with wives, brothers and sisters and siblings and cousins, they were always in Vietnam in the back. So I joined I voleenteered after an interview with him. I joined the 2nd groupof vetran. We met once a week for 3 months. It was the only time I had been with other combat vetrans who knew what I was talking about. In Vietnam, proudly no more than 20 percent of the men who served actually in combat because...”</p>	<p>10:00 Minutes</p>
<p>”If you’re fighting a war that far away then you have to have a long supply line and you’ll have a lot of people in that line group to keep it going I finally came to grips with the war I finally realize I was not a responsible that thought I was but I had one more</p>	<p>11:00 Minutes</p>

<p>effect and I was so lucky I was not wanted there but I spent most nice for those 10 I have months I spent on the ground that I've been saturated by agent orange and the government said that agent orange was just day her to side that was only to take care of underbrush to clean things out but actually they knew better than that and the active agent agent orange is a chemical contacts in which attacks the human The human body at a level of DNA terrible things..."</p>	
<p>"So 10 years after coming home from this little unit we had four cases of cancer. The guys were then in their 10s and they were getting cancers of the stomach and cancers of internal organs that almost never accrued in a male of that age group. And shortly after my 40th birthday after being home home , 10 plus years I was Diagnosed with heart disease I had an aneurysm growing out my Yorida and it was life-threatening and I was a ascent somatic I didn't realize there was anything wrong so I had open heart surgery shortly after my 40th birthday the aneurysm is just an expansion of a blood vessel in the blood vessel coming out of my heart should've been like my pinky but it was more like the size of a fist if that popped it would've done me in..."</p>	<p>12:00 Minutes</p>
<p>So I had the open heart Surgery at Washington Hospital Center and I've been very grateful for that technology was there the veterans administration army state there's no connection between my heart problem and sleeping on agent orange because there is too much time between one event and the other event I don't believe that but I don't get to make it I didn't want to go I made a moral decision to go I came back I did the hardest job in the army had I get no pension or no benefits And I think by the time I had at home at the end of 1970 it wasn't that people were spitting on us or protesting the soldiers it was worse but I the time I had at home there was it empathy no</p>	<p>13:00 Minutes</p>

<p>one really cared about Vietnam war and no one really cared about what we had done so I carried around a little slide box...”</p>	
<p>” ...of 35mm slides anxious to tell the story but no one was really interested so because of the heart surgery I went back to college I was accepted to a program to John Hopkins I have a Masters and John Hopkins I try to establish careers as a college teacher and I don’t with transip ascension attacks which are a little minor strokes I had one in front of the classroom I knew what was going on because of my speech got very thick and slow I had double vision and I felt a little dizzy one of my students called the emergency technical people who came in with A stretcher and oxygen by the time they got there it was all over so the college was not pleased with all the attention...”</p>	<p>14:00 Minutes</p>
<p>And they brought out my contract which is OK one final thing is I believe that the world is always the entrance and the most negative thing that happened in my life for serving that industry in Vietnam but what time in Larkin maybe Grace the worst thing in my life can be transformed into the best thing so I’ve done a lot of work with the veterans as a cofounder of a residential program for homeless vets in Baltimore it opened in 1993 it’s called Mac vet the Maryland center for veterans education and training I’ve done a lot of work with veterans at watery medical center where I was staff person in the Trumatic brain industry...”</p>	<p>15:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Clinic although there was a big difference in age and experience I could talk to soldiers a little older than you because both have had a combat experience and that really made so would I go back to Vietnam. No interest do I wish I had made a different choice when I was 25 no not really I think the challenges facing to get a respective about what I’m really responsible for and what I could of done and feel to do and get a</p>	<p>16:00 Minutes</p>

<p>perspective about how I can turn that I experience about something positive and what I've been able to do these experiences in some interest connect the combat version of events with their guys from Iraq Afghanistan and I have the Middle East thank you..."</p>	
<p>What I have learned from them my father was active-duty Navy and till I was 10 what I learned from them was the really good part of the military you know the really well it's the really good part is really interesting to see the people lined up at margin it was glamorous the romantic but I also talk to my uncles both my uncle served in Europe in World War II want to been captured by the Germans had a terrible experience and the guys uncles would've been in the army infrentry he had a very different version..."</p>	<p>17:00 Minutes</p>
<p>The guys have in the Navy in the South Pacific so yeah I had a glamorous idea where it might be but I also had a counterbalance the reality my uncles would've been there... well I think so I was brought up in the Navy in that meant you serve your country because you go or you volunteer to go and the Countries always right my father and I had great disagreements about Vietnam because he cannot see the difference in Vietnam is experience in World War II so we stop talking about it "</p>	<p>18:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Yeah... Because I was really happy and what I was doing I was really settled I really did think they knew me I was hoping I could find a way to weave through the system because I spoke Spanish I had a lot of work experience that other draftees and didn't have my military I have been trained in this military occupational specialty put pins in a map take Radio reports and do paperwork I thought that would be safe and predictable..."</p>	<p>19:00 Minutes</p>
<p>but the Recom part that was very unpredictable and at that time in 1970 we did not get and enzyme it until we were in country so you didn't know ahead of time</p>	<p>20:00 Minutes</p>

<p>where you're going to wind up geographically we are going to wind up a occupationally or what you're gonna do you just roll the dice well a lot of people yelling the food was terrible they fed me great and I had to pretend to enjoy them which was horrible and all of a sudden I was living by myself and making my own menu in my own schedule I am in a Borax with 39 other guys..."</p>	
<p>and then you have to take a little piece of explosive C-4 an explosive device and you have to and light it under the can to heat it up and then you throw the Can away and the Vietnamese find the can I get into a booby trapnot much armies in general but are are always fights the last 47 training in Georgia I learned how to take the hill there's a hill their bag guys on the hill but we're not Hills and then went to Vegas and the train was always</p>	21:00 Minutes
<p>out of sync with what was going on in the actual Warsaw so as again and country I found out that the train he really didn't have much relevance to what they asked me to do well it became a of April I I saw the Vietnamese people we are working with very much like the Ecuadorian people I've worked with copiers previously and I saw what I consider a great stupidity on the part of the army we are in now on the cob and area on the coast of the South China Sea and before I got there the army had gone</p>	22:00 Minutes
<p>for 5 miles along the coastline and evacuate all the villagersTook him to what eventually concentration camps relocation camps along my highway for those people twice a day free food and for bid people who live has villages for generations to go back to the villages get firewood go through the villages go to the ocean and do the fishing they've been doing for many generations seem like a very silly way to make friends for America no i was basically against it based on the reports I had from my room and I drove out to</p>	23:00 Minutes

<p>Tulsa Oklahoma to report to her to retrain him into military high school he thought this is really known cause I get something done in about less than a year later here's write me a letter and say this is really strange I'm in the snow and we have howitzers which are cameras on wheels and the wheels are stuck in the mud because it's the rainy season and we're being told by our superiors to get out of the mud so we can use but there's nothing in vietnam that I really need it artillery pieces no they were all smarter than i was.</p>	<p>24:00 Minutes</p>
<p>what you could do to avoid the draft was he get married if it got even better marry a woman with a couple children you could have a psychiatrist or psychologist to write a note for you how you're mentally unfit you could shoot off I tried to fire you could increase your blood pressure you could take amphetamine so that when you want your production physical he would be so off the charts with the numbers that they wouldn't take you and you could go to jail or at least go to the judge to see if what he would do the draft resistor so a lot of people may all have made a lot of hard choices and a lot of people avoiding making the choice by doing one of those legal things you can do to be declared unfit</p>	<p>25:00 Minutes</p>
<p>we had where in Geyserville firefights where my narrow business making friends for America and somebody off in the distance opens up with a weapon so my resume is always been against the weapon my country gave me to fight with quiz the M-16 riflebecause in on several firefights when I opened fire at me I take off my backpack myself a small target and I point my rifle in the direction the fire is coming from and I fire but</p>	<p>26:00 Minutes</p>
<p>many times the M-16 line went to far it will go quick to the jam I clean that thing twice today and still jammed so one thought was to stand up and say bang bang your dad but I didn't think I would work so I saved in</p>	<p>27:00 Minutes</p>

<p>the ground and cursed the m-16 it's a mess it's amazing to me even now that I/we fight that war as many documented accounts we had a malfunction of the M-16 it was never retrieved never replace never approved and for year after year people went through the same experience I had of had my wife and I clean my weapons that should work it overtake me click click nothing</p>	
<p>yeah i think standout and an honor of the policy of that time was that every soldier could go on leave for six days if you come back to Honolulu Hawaii July the married guy said otherwise could fly out or you could go to Bangkok or if you go to Sydney Australia or you can go to Taipei I want to Tokyo and I took the bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto and I stayed away from the army as much as I could that was rnr call it safely in the infantry INI for intoxication and</p>	<p>28:00 Minutes</p>
<p>intercourse and then during the a.m. the air me at no regular schedule we would have three days of standdown when we came out of the field and back of the fireplace and we will get our entertainment from and cream for shows and we be allowed to drink beer but there are no the hard part was never knowing there was no safe place in Vietnam there were no safe people there people live with a different set of rules and a different culture and set of rules and different culture you could not trust that babies were innocent or that women were not combatants we were going to the village and daytime and we will look for it in cash is a weapons we got down the well when I would look in the walls of the hutch and the people would fan or or report and since we don't know anything and then we</p>	<p>29:00 Minutes</p>
<p>go away but nighttime Olivia, coming to the same villages and threaten the villagers and Hyde weapons and hide me nations and hide things in that village center for civilians were caught advice which is totally the opposite of that experience in peace corp that I I</p>	<p>30:00 Minutes</p>

<p>thought that the Vietnamese we're not really communist there their subsistence farmers who want to grow rice crop want to feed their family I didn't really want to be bothered with politics or put it in theory it was not a popular opinion among my peers letters to your girlfriend no I don't think I'm not in touch with anyone</p>	
<p>“We don't know anything. And then we go away. But at nighttime the Vietcong would come into the same village and threaten the villagers and hide weapons and hide ammunitions and hide things in that village. So of course civilians were caught in a vice, which I mean was the complete opposite of the experience I had in peace corps. I thought that the Vietnamese were not really communists, I think they were subsistence farmers who wanted to grow a rice crop, who wanted to feed their family and didn't really want to be bothered with politics or political theory, that was not a popular opinion among my peers.”</p>	30 minutes
<p>“I'm not in touch with anyone from the unit now, it's been very hurtful that 3 of those guys have died of cancer before they were 40. I knew them when they were 18 and I think we had great losses in that war on all levels and I don't think we actually gained much at all. So now, almost 50 years later, if this is the typical day before midnight today there will be 19 soldiers, 19 servicemen from all wars and branches who have found it necessary to commit suicide because the homecoming has not worked, we have not figured out how to get someone detoxed from a combat experience. We can fix the leg and give you a great prosthetic.”</p>	31 minutes
<p>“We can do all of those things but we can't do the mental reshifting, recalculating that has to take place and if I have not found that group of that young psychologist who linked me to other combat veterans then I don't know what I would have done. We were a</p>	32 minute

<p>small unit, we knew each other very well and we had such a lack of understanding, such a lack of savvy and leadership that one day the unit was assigned to this little village because we heard that there would be a meeting going on of Viet Cong bigwigs we got to the village and there were no people, there were no animals, there were smoking breakfast fires so somebody had been there recently but there was nobody around.”</p>	
<p>“We got to the village and there were no people around, there were no animals, there were smoking breakfast fires so somebody had been there recently but there was nobody around and then I heard a big boom so when there was a boom, I learned not to look around, to just hit the ground and get out of the way of whatever's flying around. And when the boom was over I looked up and maybe 15 yards away from me Jimmy had lost his foot, he was lying on his back because he had been very close to the explosion and his foot was maybe from here to that wall over there, about 5 yards. So I went over to him and I called for the medic, jimmy was lying on his back, I put my hand on his chest because I didn't want him to look and see he was missing his foot.”</p>	33 minutes
<p>“And I told him you have that million dollar wound, you're probably going home, you'll be on the ship, you'll be there with all the pretty nurses in the hospital, you're just a lucky guy. The idea was to keep him out of shock, if people see that they're missing a limb or if they see blood coming out they're body takes over and is saying this is really dangerous, I'm really close to death, I didn't want that to happen Jimmy. So the medic came he never saw until much later that day that he was missing his foot, they just bandaged it up to stop the bleeding and shipped him away. They sent Jimmy to Japan, we have big navy hospitals in Japan. They cut off the foot, but that was</p>	34 minutes

not enough because infection set in.”	
<p>“He Had a second operation below the knee and after I was home he had a third operation above the knee and he finally had a fourth operation, this is two years after we were home. They took the leg off at the hip, they were never able to control the infection. Jimmy was 21 years old and his whole life just pivoted from being in the wrong place at the wrong time on the wrong day. We had 365 days so you would count the days but then if I count the days then my focus gets on crossing them off a calendar and that's not really enough to distract me.”</p>	35 minutes

<p>“So I stopped counting the days. In 1970 the president said the first division is coming home, 20,000 men, big red one, we would take the colors home to Fort Riley, Kansas. But what he didn't say was that to go home with the first division, the big red one patch, you had to have 300 days in country. So a lot of guys that had 200 days or 290 days that transferred to other units. I was able to come home because I had more than 300 days. So to answer your question I got the notice, I'm going home early. I wouldn't have to wait I until the holidays, I can go home.”</p>	36 minutes
<p>“But then you become super cautious, if I'm this close to going home I don't want to do anything too dangerous or too risky. And there's a way of being so cautious that you're more dangerous or in more danger. So I rolled the dice, thanksgiving that year in 1970, I was allowed to come home in November, but in that country November is also the start of the raining season. So I spent that thanksgiving of 1970 on a hard wooden bench in an airport in Trulia Republic, South Vietnam, waiting for the fog to clear up so an airplane could come in and take me a little further south so I could get on a big bird and it could take me into the states. My thanksgiving meal that Thursday was a tuna sandwich and a coke. But I didn't want to give up my seat and have the possibility that the plane would come in while I was gone.”</p>	37 minutes
<p>“My family was pretty glad, high school friends and college friends</p>	38 minutes

<p>weren't that interested because there was really no way to connect my experience with their experience, I mean some of them are coming home from peace corps. I say let me tell you about Ecuador and Guayas county and they'd be like oh yeah that's interesting. Meanwhile, this was something else, at about the end of 1970 the American Republic was just tired of the war and there was so little good to say about it.”</p>	
<p>“Yeah because that experience was so different than my uncles and my fathers and my grandfathers, who came home and were at least recognized in what they had contributed to and what they had done. But the public wasn't there yet. Wow, I've been afraid to have children, i believe that I have the reminisces of dioxins in my body, I believe that if I have children they would have a high likelihood of birth defects, because I've seen that happen with other vets who had the similar experience as me on the ground, so I spent a lot of my career with young children.”</p>	39 minutes
<p>“I have a teaching degree in early childhood. I have no children. Didn't want to roll the dice. i co taught three year olds in a nursery school.</p>	40 minutes
<p>I taught second and third grade bilingual in New Mexico. I taught fifth and sixth grade in english. I taught an experimental program in Connecticut. But for students in elementary school, which is mostly where I taught, there wasn't any consciousness of Vietnam. I came back right before Christmas and that winter i made a magical mystery tour. i went to (laughs) i had a friend who the awards clerk of the battalion. A guy from Marianda, Georgia.</p>	41 minutes
<p>I went to see Toby. His father was retired colonel- he should have known better. Marianda, Georgia is a very nice side of Atlanta. Toby's father was a retired colonel in the SH Army. I was sleeping in the guest room and toby and I were going out that day to i don't know where we were going. But anyway, Toby's father, the colonel, who should have known better, came into the guest room, opened up the door and tiptoed to the head of the bed and shook me by the shoulder and i did what i would've done in Vietnam. I just rolled over the other way and off the bed and to the floor and turned around and faced him. He was startled and he backed off. The point is, you don't wake someone up by the shoulder, you want to wake someone up as we did on guard duty, to wake up the person who's gonna replace you,</p>	42 minutes
<p>you go to the foot. Because if you shake somebody or touch somebody in the upper body, it's gonna be almost an automatic reaction. And i thought the colonel really should've known better. I think growing up in the military family has shaped me a lot. I think Peace Corp, staying a lot of my life in a small town, going to a small college. There were 43 kids in my high school graduating class. What shaped me was the environment I grew up in really believed in patronism and duty and honor and serving your country.</p>	43 minutes

<p>And the draft seemed fair and now i worry that now we don't have a mechanism for young people to be of service. We have Americorp. Peace Corp never has really grown in size since fifty years ago. We have the military, but we don't have- it's hurtful to me that in 2017, in this century we have about seven thousand American kids that died in the middle east, and yet the newspapers and the tv aren't very interested in that. It's just off the charts. Though the great irony is that we have all our handheld devices and all these extraordinary methods of communication,</p>	<p>44 minutes</p>
<p>and yet all we can talk about is the twitters of the president, or who's saying that nasty thing to be the Virginia governor. And we have these seven thousand kids. I worked at Wal Derides as a volunteer as a public affairs guy and in a traumatic brain injuries clinic and a lot of those young guys would not have come home from Vietnam if we did not have the technology. So now we have extraordinary technology so if you lose a limb or if you have burns we can fix you up physically. But the army and the VA have never done the other part of that. There more to be in the human being than something with a well functioning body. And we haven't been able to get that piece in place.</p>	<p>45 minutes</p>
<p>There's a theory about communication that says you need a sender and you need a receiver. What connects the sender and the receiver is an arch of human experience; the same experience. So the disconnect is, we have a very small portion of the population of any age group that has actually served in the military. And an even smaller percentage of that group that has actually been in combat. So that arch of human experience that ignites the military is just not there, and I think it's to our disadvantage. I think it would be nice if Americans knew why we had six thousand troops in Niger, or what we're doing in Yemen, or if we had a plan in Syria.</p>	<p>46 minutes</p>
<p>But we have no plans, no desired outcomes, no plan to measure them. And if we can't talk about how much it costs, it could be to our detriment. The hardest thing was not to worry my parents. So I never told them the story of Jim losing his foot, because the they worry about," Oh maybe that could happen to you!" No. Once a month i would borrow a typewriter and I would write a one and a half page letter and i sent it to my father who mimeographed the letter and sent it to a list of maybe twenty people.</p>	<p>47 minutes</p>
<p>Peace Corps friends, college friends, a couple relatives. I always made those letters upbeat. First of all because it's so hard to describe the experience. That you have slept on the ground for 6 nights in a row and you can't drink the water that's around you, you have to depend on canteens and the canteens are filled by filcos as a contract with the government to provide fresh water. I mean there's just so much disconnect, that the letters home had to be cheery or at least upbeat.</p>	<p>48 minutes</p>

<p>They are not to be conveyed that we are going back to the 515 valley and every time we go in there someone gets hurt. I couldn't share that.</p>	
<p>I think we have to clarify the terms. I think we have to think a little better than we've been thinking in my lifetime. If you look at the CIA World Book, which is a really good resource for the geography, the politics, the history of any given country, the write up of Vietnam all it talks about is communists, how we're fighting the communists. And we've known for a long time that Ho Chi Minh was a nationalist. He was not a communist. He was somebody who wanted Vietnam to be a unified country the way it had been historically...."</p>	49
<p>but we still have the mindset that americans are always right and that Ho Chi Minh must be a communist because he was against us, well not really. To answer your question, we need to be careful about defining the terms and we need to look at what outcome we really would like. Vietnam is now the socialist country, it's a lot better than we thought at the time. I think americans have to do a better job of learning from their own history, and it saden's me that in this century, this decade we are doing the same kinds of things we did in vietnam</p>	50
<p>were going into a country where we don't know the language, we don't know the culture or the religion we have no sense of the political structure but we're going to go in and change peoples minds about bombing seria. well we bombed vietnam we bombed World War II and people really get annoyed when you bomb their houses and we should learn that. we've created 40 million refugees in the middle east just in your lifetimes because of our indiscriminate maneuvers. Beyond the military contractors in montgomery county,</p>	51
<p>what do we gain? you're not any safer because of the time we spent in vietnam. we probably killed 3 million vietnamese civilians which is terrible because in that culture if the body is not found and identified then the soul just wanders and there's never any piece. so there's 3 million who have been distraught for all this time because we can't get a fix or closure on it. we can do better as a country but we can't do better if our leaders don't have the military experience. this is not a video game, war is a terrible thing and bombing has never worked. not in spain, in the 1930s, not in england in the 1940s</p>	52
<p>not in europe in world war II, certainly not in korea. I learned that were not always the good guys, and we need to be more careful of what were doing before we send people off because in vietnam we just didn't know. the buddhist country and were supporting the french with a catholic president, that doesn't make and sense</p>	53
<p>we have the picture i think, i brought one photograph of the recon squad, and it shows a group of people of 8 guys. after we got home the</p>	54

agent orange caught up	
“I also brought this standard history, this is a story that’s well studied or reported of the veterans who came home and started a veteran’s movement, this is the bright shining lie, paul vann who was in the vietnam in the 60s and has a big change of heart. these are voices from the wall Jan scrug’s was from right here in this county who serves in a 199 flight inventory and when he came home as an enlisted man from the war, he decided it’d be a good idea if	55
we had a memorial to the soldiers who died in the vietnam and he went through a lot of trials to get the wall built, pretty magnificent. the last thing i brought was a tim o’Brien book, a college graduate who didn’t go to officer cannon school and served in imagery. his books i recommend, i studied with him 10 years ago to do a reading at college of southern maryland.	56
there,s a lot of information but the really solid facts are useful from old technology.	57
if i were president i’d say we should pay attention to lessons learned, so here are my 5 lessons learned from vietnam... 1. obey the constitution, the constitution is very clear about who can declare war and what the reasons are for declaring war and yet we’ve let the president declare war without any explanation. 2. the government should tell us the truth, in vietnam we were asked to believe that a vietnamese fishing boat took after our boat and that if we did	58
get there and get those communists all would fall and become communists and live under the direction of moscow for forever and ever. it would’ve been great to know the truth about agent orange and dioxent, monsono knew that there was a huge effect on human beings being exposed to dioxent and agent orange but he kept it quiet. the lesson is to tell the truth about what we’re going in for, what we’re using as weapons, what the outcomes should be, all of that we should discuss before we get involved. the 3rd thing we should take away is that not all civilians are the enemy	59
we have to be careful of destroying their homes and lives. we did a lot of bombing in vietnam and it didn’t do us any good. the 4th thing is utrition isn’t a good reason to fight or measure a war. we probably killed about 3 million vietnamese, obviously not all had to be communists, there was a lot of civilians and peasant’s that just wanted to grow some rice and make a living	1:00
but the policy that we should kill them and they should kill us is not a policy that we should follow. the last thing is that we are as sick as our secrets so we shouldn’t be afraid of telling things that are a little closer	1:01

<p>to the reality or the truth. we should be able to question if it's logical that a little vietnamese fishing boat could take on a giant U.S navy destroyer? does it really make sense that all dioxent does is destroy the leaves and we should not be afraid of the truth</p>	
<p>its very sad to me that earlier last month papers had been sealed over 50 years of jack kennedy being shot were supposed to be released, even though a lot of the paper is still redacted and has black marks through the things we aren't supposed to see. we have to be careful of the seacret's and who benefits from the secrets and we have to have enough trust to be able to say what we hope about the outcomes and i don't see those conversations taking place. it's dangerous for the democracy and for the united states and your generation needs to do a better job than mine of just being clear of what we're trying to do.</p>	1:02