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CRTW-201

February 7, 2008

<div align="center">War in Iraq</div>

One major topic in today's society is the current war in Iraq. I support the war because I see it as a way for our country to stand up for ourselves. I feel America was obligated to start this war because we were attacked by terrorists, which were harbored in Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries. I believe that every American has the right to choose whether or not to support the war. My views reflect my personality, beliefs, past experiences, fears, and are often contradicted by the media.

I believe that the **worldwide view of the war based on the news** is a negative belief towards the war. It seems like everyday there is a politician or some figure of power discussing how the war is wrong and that America needs to leave immediately. One reason people are so opposed to the war is because of bad publicity. Nosich states that, "news media report on what is unusual" (20). It seems the media is always quick to spread the bad news rather than keep the good news updated. If a soldier is killed, the media is all over the story and report it as soon as possible. Many times the same story is talked about for days as if to drill it into viewers that someone died. Not to be mistaken, a death is always a tragic loss, but these soldiers knew the risks before joining the military, and would often prefer the honor of dying for their country. Negative stories like these are so often reported that many times citizens forget the positive things the war has accomplished. Because we fought for our country we were able to capture Saddam

Hussein, who was a major threat to the United States. Also, we never hear the news report about the war protecting us from more terrorist attacks for the past five years and counting.

The **war has been a hit for television shows and a few movies** in the past several years. These shows and films often affect Americans more than the news because more Americans are willing to watch an interesting show or movie instead of the nightly news. The shows often depict a Middle Eastern man as the "bad guy" that tries to blow up an airplane or try to kill hundreds of people with a car bomb. These shows in my opinion are what make Americans against the war because we are scared that at any moment there could be another attack like the one seven years ago. If Americans would actually think about what they are watching on television, they would realize that the show is distorted into making people think that all Middle Eastern people are trying to destroy America. I believe that just like any other country, Iraq and Afghanistan have a few people who are mischievous and like to attack fellow Iraqis and also other countries. America has a view of all Middle Eastern people as evil because of the shows they watch on television and because of the movies they go and see.

Some people may criticize my views on the war because I believe that people are totally for the war or totally against the war. I believe that there are no gray areas when it comes to this situation because if we can not support something one hundred percent, then we are not supporting it at all. I have no intentions to investigate reasons to bail out on the war. Nosich implies that we should see "both sides of an issue" in order to be able to understand it completely (22). However, one reason I have such an **"all or nothing"** attitude is because I have already heard all the Americans complain about the war, even

though in 2001 we thought it was the best thing to do for our country. I have my opinions about the war and I do not want people who are against the war to criticize me because of my beliefs. I often do not tell people my opinion on anything hot topic issue because I do not want people to judge me on my opinion. Another reason is simply that **growing up with a conservative background**, I have come to believe we should support our president and fight for what we believe. I do not completely agree with our president's actions all of the time, but I do not see any reason for any American to make insulting remarks about him because of his decisions on the war.

The educational habits and practices that I have grown up with have taught me how to get through high school as best as I could, but it never prepared me for an opinion on any subject including the war. I believe that many Americans' educational practices have hindered them into not being critical thinkers. Americans often just try to blend in and believe what someone else is believing rather than have an opinion that is truly theirs. I believe that the war has been talked about negatively for the past couple of years, not because a majority of Americans are against it, but because a few influential Americans are against it and every one else just follows the crowd.

My views on the war have been influenced by my family and my upbringing, but I have also established my own reasons to support the war. This could be considered **egocentric** because behind my family's view, I have my own view which is my deciding factor over my opinion on the war. I believe that many Americans have forgotten what happened to us on September 11, 2001. America was attacked and every person in Congress believed that war was the solution to stop the attacks. As politicians often do, many seem to have "forgotten" that they voted for the war because most of them are now

opposed to the war. I also believe that we are not only stopping terrorists from attacking this country, but we are also helping the people in Iraq. The Iraqi people were under a horrible dictator and America has helped them become a democracy. I think that many Americans do not believe that the Iraqi people are thankful for American soldiers coming into Iraq and helping them get a democracy.

When the terrorists attacked America, many people had one thing instilled in their mind, fear. This was the first time since colonial times that America had been attacked on our own soil. The images of airplanes flying into buildings full of people made Americans fear for their lives, thinking that at any moment another airplane could come crashing down into their town. I believe that one of the main reasons I support the war is that I am **fearful** that if we leave at the wrong moment, then we will be attacked again. I believe that America has taken several safety measures to help ensure America's safety and that September 11 will never happen again. I think that other terrorist attacks may happen in the future, but not for awhile because terrorists are too busy trying to defend their own country right now. If America continues to capture terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan, then there will be fewer terrorists to try and attack America.

When America was attacked by terrorists, an instinctive pattern of thinking crossed through our brains, revenge. Revenge is **taught at a young age** and is often the reason why relationships end whether it is friendly, marital or family. This development of thinking is what helped Americans believe that we needed to go over to the Middle East and show that America is not a country to be messed with. My opinion is that we are exacting revenge on the terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan by capturing them and letting their country's judicial system deal with the terrorists. At a young age I was

taught that if I got in a fight at school, that I better not be the kid that started the fight. It was okay for me to have self-defense for the actions of the other kid, but often self-defense turns into revenge. I believe that America should not leave Iraq or Afghanistan until both countries are stable and until we have had our revenge on the leaders of the terrorist organizations.

Living in a small town in South Carolina, I have grown up hearing war stories about my great-grandfather fighting in World War II, and all my uncles fighting in Vietnam, so **I have an abundance of commitments** to war and to fighting for America. I remember my great-grandfather telling me one day how he tried to get out of going into the battle because he said that he was not ready yet. He told me that when the Marines held target practice, he would try to aim a little off the bull's eye because all the best shooters went into the war. My great-grandfather was not scared of the war, but I believe that he had not fully matured when he first entered the Marines, since he was only eighteen years old. I have a cousin right now serving in Iraq for the second time in two years. My cousin (Charlie) knew what he was doing when he graduated high school and decided to join the army; the war had already started and he knew that he needed to help defend his country. I have friends that I graduated with that are in Iraq and Afghanistan right now. A couple months ago, one of those friends was injured, but it was not life threatening. When I graduated in 2006, I considered joining the military because that is what my great-grandfather, grandfather and many close uncles all did when they graduated high school. I chose not to enlist, not because I was scared, but because I am an only child and that would end the branch of the "O'Reilly Family Tree," if I died

before I had a child. I chose my family over my country because those are the people who have helped me for nineteen years of my life.

I choose to support the war because I believe that all countries should have the same opportunities and freedoms that we have in America. I believe that if a middle class young adult wants to attend college because he thinks it could help his family, then he should be given that chance. In my opinion, I think that since my family has grown up in the military lifestyle, it has had an affect on me and my beliefs. With these beliefs, I think that I often listen to my family and authority figures in determining influential events in my life. I think I support the war so much because of the freedom America has and the freedom I hope Iraq can gain after this war is over.

Works Cited

Nosich, Gerald M. <u>Learning to Think Things Through: A Guide to Critical Thinking</u>

<u>Across the Curriculum</u>. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2005. Print.