

Samuel Bradshaw, P1 // “Power of the written word” Essay Re-write // 4/30/07

Benjamin Franklin once stated, referring to the letters of a printing press, “Give me 26 lead soldiers, and I will conquer the world.” With the strength of language, a good writer can immensely influence his or her readers. In times of war, different writers express their different opinions very strongly for or against war. We live in “America ... Home of the Ignorant” (Source C) and we need writers who know what is happening to inform us. In all of the referenced sources, the general consensus is that war is violent and should be ended.

War is extremely violent. “Vietnam Poem” accurately describes the contrast between peace and war. In Vietnam, quiet farms and delicate sounds and scents filled the air. Then, the guns fired loudly, causing death and destruction. Innocent children playing and friends walking together were killed mercilessly by soldiers (Source B). Several people are killed – friends, neighbors, and family members of those who stay removed from the battle. The author of “Things You Didn’t Do” tells about her boyfriend who went away to war. He had always been nice to her despite her mistakes, and she wanted to make up for all the things he had done for her – but he didn’t come back (Source D). Many people, even those who don’t actually fight, are affected by the violence of war.

The terrible violence of war often does not always accomplish its goals. The purpose of the United States’ war in Iraq, in Eastern Asia, was to overthrow the unjust government that had been in control. We did remove that government from power, but we have not succeeded in changing the mindset and culture of the people to prepare it for a democratic government. Since the “liberation” of Iraq, violence has continued. Nothing we have done or can do will help the people of Iraq; only time can change the minds of

the belligerents (Source E). When a war ceases to be of any benefit to the warring nations, it is necessary to come back home.

Therefore, the referenced documents prove that war should be stopped. War is violent and destructive, and hurts many. It must be stopped when nobody benefits from it, and when the only effect is more destruction. This is proved by the careful communication of informative and influential writers.