
Analyzing the Propaganda of War

WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

Analyze *Platoon* and *The Green Berets* to argue how Oliver Stone's film addresses the fallacies that John Wayne's propaganda war film projects. Your goal is to discuss how *The Green Berets* falls into the category of propaganda literature given that its purpose is to mislead viewers or at least to *not* present a balanced view of the war. Attempt to expose the bias and the thinking or lack of it that underlies the message of *The Green Berets*.

Sources:

Your primary sources are the films; however, you may consult up to 2 outside credible source commentaries on the films. These must be legitimate essays that you find through credible academic periodical databases.

Title:

Construct an intriguing, interest-arousing title that conveys the subject of your essay.

Introductory Paragraph:

Identify your subject/purpose of your essay and include your thesis statement at the end.

Main Body Paragraphs:

Use an *appropriate number* of paragraphs to explain and argue your thesis. Be sure your paragraphs use focused topic sentences.

Conclusion Paragraph:

The conclusion in this essay is very important. Try to go beyond merely regurgitating your points just covered in your essay. That makes for a very weak ending. Experiment with different ways to conclude your essay that will make us think. You may want to echo your thesis, but don't offer your opinion on the issue the author's essay is discussing.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Page length:** Your essay must be between 4 and 6 typed, double-spaced pages so that you can adequately analyze your texts and comment on them.
- **Writing mode:** Analytical/argumentative. (You are asserting either a factual, value, or policy claim.)
- **Audience:** Adults/college students. (Assume your readers are critical thinkers like yourself.)
- **Purpose:** To inform and persuade your audience that the text you are analyzing contains elements of propaganda. You should aim to convince a reasonable reader that your claims are valid.
- **SAE:** Remember, your paper must follow the basic conventions of Standard American written English (correct mechanics, usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and so forth).
- **REMINDER:** This essay must be written in the third person, so you **may not** use "you" or "I" at all in this assignment. *Be sure to use the present tense whenever you discuss what the author says in the essay you are analyzing.* Also make sure you introduce the author and title of the essay you are analyzing.
- **USING AN OUTSIDE SOURCE:** This paper requires that you cite from both **primary** and **secondary** sources. Consequently, you must use the MLA in-text parenthetical citation method and add a Works Cited page at the end of your essay. You should use citations sparingly, mainly to lend credibility to your claims or to present relevant counter-arguments that you will address.

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