

# The Tet Offensive and the Media's Responsibility in Forming the American Public's Opinion

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# Process Paper

The Vietnam War has interested me for quite a few years and I wanted to do something on it. My grandfather is a Vietnam veteran and that also sparked my interest. After a few weeks of researching for ideas, I came across the Tet Offensive. This struck me as interesting and I later decided to settle on that topic. I thought that the change of the American media and how it affected the millions of people in the United States was definitely interesting.

First, I looked on the MNLINK Gateway website and reserved four books. Two on Tet and two on the Vietnam War. I used these books as they were very helpful and good sources of information. Then, I went online, primarily to the "Britannica School" and the "Student Resources in Contest" sites. These were very good sites providing me with a lot of information within their many articles and primary resources. I also thought about interviewing my grandpa, but he was not in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive, so I decided against it. I took notes using these sources and more, filling up 15 notecards. Every time that I would use a resource, I would annotate it so that this would not be left to the end. Once I actually started my website, I searched for pictures. It was difficult finding pictures that would count as primary resources, but I eventually found good sites for those. With all this information, I was able to complete my project without needing any more sources, besides pictures.

I had previously made a paper for school on my topic using the same information that I used on my site. In making my website, I would generally copy the corresponding part of my paper into my website. Then, using that base, I would add and subtract information as needed to better convey my point and to help meet the word limit. After that, I would try to find relevant photos, preferably primary, to add to my site. Then, I would try to find quotes from books that I had that were relevant, put them on, make the site look good, and then

move onto the next page of my site. After I had completed a rough draft this way, I counted my words (too many) and worked on whittling it down after my teacher had taken a look at it and given me feedback. After that I was ready, and so I worked on my bibliography.

After the Tet Offensive, certain reporters were responsible for negatively affecting public opinion about the war. The negative reporting of the Vietnam soldier hampered their rights to get a job or be seen as a war hero. My project relates to the theme in several ways. My project focuses on how it is the right and responsibility of the American media to remain unbiased and report truthfully. If the media had remained unbiased, the Vietnam War might not have ended the way it did.

(497 Words)