

CREATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

VETERAN: A NARRATIVE NONFICTION ACCOUNT OF A WARRIOR'S JOURNEY TOWARD HEALING

STUDENT: Marshall Zachary Howell

DEGREE: Master of Arts (Journalism)

COLLEGE: Communication, Information, and Media

DATE: May 2010

This creative project focuses on the life story of a Marine Corps veteran who was left permanently disabled in 1969 after being wounded in the Vietnam War. The extended profile of this war veteran uses established techniques of literary journalism. These include background immersion and saturation reporting (extended conversational interviews with subject, artifact studies, detailed historical accuracy, digressional medical and geographical explanations, reviews of contemporary third-person accounts), sensory and status details, characterization (subjective physical and personality observations), dialogue, scene-by-scene structure (plot) and an emphasis on creating a “dual subjectivity” (symbolism, allusion) to establish an enlightenment factor that broadens the reader’s worldview on the subject. The story opens *in media res* to explore the source’s life as a disabled veteran before using digression and reworked chronology to “flashback” to his war experiences. By using these techniques, the researcher has striven to inform and enlighten the reader about the struggles and triumphs of a disabled American veteran.