

Lindsey Arhart  
November 10, 2008  
Speech 4-6

## Informative Speech Outline

General purpose: To inform my audience the affect the Hmong had on the Vietnam War

Specific Purpose: After hearing my speech the audience will better understand who the Hmong are, and why they are so important in America's history.

*Exc*  
Thesis: The Hmong people were vital in the war against the North Vietnamese, and even though they sacrificed so much to aid us, we still didn't appreciate their help and left them to defend themselves.

### I. Introduction

- A. The Vietnam War was from 1959 – 1975. The war was the North Vietnam communist and their allies, against the South Vietnam noncommunist, America, and our allies. America became involved in the war because they wanted to stop the spread of communism. This war was known for its very brutal guerrilla tactics in the jungles of the Southeast Asia. My three great uncles and my grandpa all fought in the Vietnam War. Out of a family of four, only one came back from the war, my grandpa. Some of us have only heard of the Americans that risked their lives for this war, and not of those who risked their lives as part of their secret alliance with the American troops.
  - i. My speech is about the Hmong people's secret involvement in the Vietnam War and the impact they had on the war.
  - ii. It is important to understand just who the Hmong are because they sacrificed much to save many American lives, and we should be thankful for that.
  - iii. On October 13, 2008, I attended the event with Jane Hamilton, the author of "Tragic Mountain" who spoke of what the Hmong had to go through in the Vietnam War.
    - a) This is when I became interested in the Hmong and just who they where.
- B. There are four questions that need to be answered in order to understand how important the Hmong were in the Vietnam War.
  - i. Who are the Hmong and why did they join the American side in the Vietnam War?
  - ii. How where they involved in this war?
  - iii. More importantly, what happened to the Hmong when the Americans pulled out of the war?
  - iv. What was the overall affect of the Vietnam War on the Hmong?

### II. Body/Discussion

- A. Who are the Hmong and why did they join the American side in the Vietnam War?

- 
- i. Now I am from Illinois, so those who are from Wisconsin probably know a lot about them, but I have never heard of this group of people, I was never educated about them.
  - ii. They were American's secret weapons against the Vietnamese from 1960-1975, they were the Hmong people of Laos.
  - iii. The Hmong are known for their peaceful ways.
  - iv. They live up in the hills of Laos.
  - v. A quote that is often said by the Hmong is "Being Hmong means being free." (<http://www.wpt.org/hmong/war.html>)
  - vi. At first, Laos was to remain a neutral country and a buffer between North Vietnam communist and the South Vietnam noncommunist.
  - vii. Americans knew the Hmong people were in danger because not having the support of their country meant they couldn't fight against a greater army such as the North Vietnamese.
  - viii. Hmong wanted to fight for the Americans because of their previous war with the Japanese.
  - ix. The Japanese tried to subvert the Hmong people, and the Americans defeated the Japanese in the battle.
- B. How were they involved in this war?
- i. "American bases were set up in Laos and the United States Secret Army (USSA) was formed" ([www.uwstout.edu](http://www.uwstout.edu))
  - ii. General Vang Pao, was chosen by the CIA, to lead the Hmong soldiers into battle.
  - iii. Laos was used to transport troops and supplies to North Vietnam along the Ho-Chi-Minh Trail.
  - iv. One of the goals of the Hmong people was to cut off any supplies going to North Vietnam along this trail.
  - v. The other two goals were to: to guide the U.S. bombing missions and to rescue any U.S. pilots that were shot down.
- C. What happened to the Hmong when Americans pulled out of the war?
- i. The Hmong were abandoned when the Americans withdrew their soldiers in 1973.
  - ii. Those that had survived the war were left without any air support. Now they were not only fighting the North Vietnamese but also the newly reformed communist army of Laos.
  - iii. This new army was called the Lao People's Democratic Republic. These people wanted to get rid of the Hmong minority completely and so the mass extermination of the Hmong began.
  - iv. Their villages were attacked and they were forced to flee to the jungle. Song Pao Xiong, stated that, "if the communists didn't kill us, there was always the danger of dying from sickness or starvation." (<http://www.diversitytv.net/2008/hmong/>)
  - v. Since they were a part of a secret war many Americans didn't know of their involvement in the war, and so; they didn't know about the troops abandoning the Hmong and leaving them to defend themselves.



- vi. But because the Hmong soldiers were employed in the CIA, the Americans realized that they had to set up refugee camps in America for the civilians of Laos.
- vii. As great as this sounded it was false hope to the Hmong. It was very difficult to get to America and most refugee camps were in horrible condition.
- viii. "80,000 Hmong entered the United States from Laos and 68% of them have settled in California, Minnesota and Wisconsin." (uwstout.edu)

D. What was the overall affect?

- i. "With massive U.S. air support," Laos became "the most heavily bombed nation in history," Quincy said. (<http://www.diversitytv.net/2008/hmong/>)
- ii. "When it was finished, some 17,000 Hmong soldiers were dead. So were thousands of Hmong civilians. Of the 300,000 Hmong in Laos at the start of the war, 30,000 died as a direct result of the fighting, 100,000 were able to escape to Thailand or another relatively safe haven and the 90,000 soldiers and their families who couldn't escape were left to live with the wrath of the vengeful communist government." (<http://www.wpt.org/hmong/war.html>)

III. Conclusion

- A. The Hmong, peaceful people, showed up to fight when needed, but now that fighting is done, its time to realize just what we put the Hmong through. The Hmong were dedicated allies to the Americans and fought through some of the worst conditions ever to defend their land, their people and to support the Americans.
- B. "I knew a man in North Carolina who was a soldier in the Vietnam War, the only reason he is alive today is because a Hmong saved him after his plane crashed." (Jane Hamilton)
  - i. At the end of the speech she had all the students who were Hmong, all the students who survived refugee camps, and all the students who had relatives that fought in the Vietnam War as Americans stand up.
  - ii. It was amazing to see so many people from our campus that I knew and found out that they had a history closely tied to our own. They all had stories to tell of their life or someone close to them who had to gone through such horrendous events.
  - iii. That's why I am speaking today; because I want you to realize that they are not just another group of Asian immigrants, but are noble people we should honor and make them feel welcome in our country.

Source

1. A Brief History of the Hmong People. Feb. 2008. Hmong Service Center, Inc. 28 Oct. 2008 <<http://www.hmongservicecenter.org/about%20hmong.htm>>.
2. A Brief History of the Hmong & the Secret War in Laos. 13 Feb. 2008. Diversity TV. 28 Oct. 2008 <<http://www.diversitytv.net/2008/hmong/>>.
3. Being Hmong Means Being Free. 2000. Wisconsin Public Television. 30 Oct. 2008 <<http://www.wpt.org/hmong/war.html>>.
4. Hmong Veterans. Aug. 2006. Seattle Post. 30 Oct. 2008. <[http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/247217\\_hmongvets05.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/247217_hmongvets05.html)>.
5. Speech. Dr. Jane Hamilton - (Hmong Speaker). Center for the Arts, Platteville. 13 Oct. 2008.
6. UA Hmong students take stand against genocide. 8 Apr. 2008. The Arkansas Traveler Online Edition. 30 Oct. 2008 <<http://http://media.www.thetraveleronline.com/media/storage/paper688/news/2008/04/18/lifestyle/ua.hmong.students.take.stand.against.genocide-3333697-page2.shtml>>.
7. UW-Stout Library. Aug. 2000. Christopher A. Bondioli. 30 Oct. 2008 <<http://http://www.uwstout.edu/lib/thesis/2000/2000bondiolic.pdf>>.

Rating Form: Speech to Inform

Speaker Lindsay A.  
 Topic "Among Us Nam"

A

Dahlquist  
 - POOR  
 FAIR  
 GOOD  
 V.G.  
 EXCEL.

1) Does the introduction gain attention & interest?  
 Has the speaker introduced topic clearly, related  
 topic to audience? Established credibility?  
 Previewed body of speech?

3-4

*I think we need a stronger intro. Device before you plunge us into your topic. try beginning with a question?*

2) Body: Are main points clear and fully supported?  
 Is the organization well planned? Is the language  
 clear & accurate & appropriate? Are connectives  
 effectively employed?

5

3) Conclusion: Has the speaker prepared audience for  
 ending? Has she/he reinforced the central idea?  
 Is the ending vivid (clincher)?

5

4) Delivery: Did the speaker begin without rushing,  
 maintain strong eye contact, avoid distracting manner-  
 isms? Was vocal variety achieved? Did she/her commu-  
 nicate enthusiasm for topic? Depart lectern without  
 rushing? Were visual aids presented well?

3

*Real Enthusiasm! See suggestions on back!*

5) Overall Evaluation: Was assignment met? Was the topic  
 challenging, the specific purpose well chosen? Was the  
 message adapted to audience? Completed on time? Did  
 the speech hold the interest of the audience?

5

*(over) Com 365*

Lindsay, I like your mind. You write a beautiful  
 speech. So much new information here!! The  
 #1 thing to work on is the vocal rate - you really  
 clip along. Try writing "PAUSE" in the margins  
 of your cards, & really work them into your  
 rehearsals! I LOVE the visuals!! Don't  
 try to memorize.

!!!  
 Thanks...