

Our World
Mr. Fisher

* Mandatory Summer Reading *

**PICK ONE OF THESE TWO BOOKS AND
COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENT.
IT IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

ALL ANSWERS MUST BE TYPED AND DOUBLE-SPACED.

Love My Rifle More Than You: Young and Female in the U.S. Army

by Kayla Williams, 288 pages

Kayla Williams was part of the 15 percent of the United States Army that is female. She tells about why she enlisted and how she came to be assigned to learn Arabic; of her broken relationship with a Palestinian boyfriend and later her failed marriage to a civilian; of her experience watching 9/11 unfold on Arabic television. While deployed, Williams is immersed in bravery and bigotry, strength and fear, sexism and loyalty. She witnesses death up close and sees soldiers cross the line between interrogation and torture.

ASSIGNMENT:

Answer the following questions. Questions 1-4, answers should be a minimum of 2 paragraphs. For instructions on how to answer question 5, see below.

1. Why do you think that Williams is treated in such a sexist, misogynistic way by the men in her unit and beyond? Do you think that Williams' use of profanity is justified under the circumstances presented to her?
2. Other than gender, what personal characteristics, skills and traits made her different from most of her fellow soldiers? How did these differences affect her view of the situation?
3. List the major criticisms that Williams expresses about the war. Why does she feel that she is part of a doomed mission, and why does she feel that she and her fellow soldiers have been set up by a culturally insensitive and uninformed military leadership? Cite specific examples from the book.
4. What positive experiences did Williams have during her tour? How was she able to generate constructive objectives for her time in Iraq?
5. Write a typed, double-spaced, 2-page diary of your experience as a female soldier in Iraq as you image it. A minimum of four different diary entries stretching over a year-long period is required. Possible ideas include: how you feel about being a mistreated minority in the army, your *positive and negative* feelings for your fellow soldiers, your immediate superiors, your feelings for the Iraqi people, and about the purpose of the war itself. Be sure to include your thoughts about what you wish was different about the situation and what you would do if you were in charge.

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The Last True Story I'll Every Tell: An Accidental Soldier's Account of the War in Iraq

by John Crawford, 240 pages

The author joined the Florida National Guard to pay for his college tuition: One weekend a month. Two weeks a year. A free education. But in 2002, one semester shy of graduation and on his honeymoon, Crawford was shipped off to the front lines in Iraq. Once there he was determined to get it all down, to chronicle the daily life of a soldier in all its brutal, heartbreaking honesty.

ASSIGNMENT:

Answer the following questions. Questions 1-4, answers should be a minimum of 2 paragraphs. For instructions on how to answer question 5, see below.

1. What was Specialist Crawford's job in Iraq and why do you think he thought it was a paradoxical (contradictory) duty to have in a place like Iraq?
2. Do you think that Crawford and his fellow soldiers were well prepared for their fight? Cite specific examples why you think they were or were not ready for the realities on the ground.
3. Describe the reception that the soldiers received from the Iraqi people? From the children? From the young girls? Adult women? Adult men? Were the responses always consistent, clear? How were Crawford and his fellow soldiers affected by their relationships with the Iraqi citizens?
4. Do you think that it is a good strategy to have only enlisted soldiers fighting a war like this, or do you think that a draft is a better way to fill the ranks? Explain your reasoning.
5. Write a typed, double-spaced, 2-page diary of your experience as a soldier in Iraq as you image it. A minimum of four different diary entries stretching over a year-long period is required. Possible ideas include: how you feel about the purpose of the war itself; your personal place in it, your feelings for the Iraqi people, your immediate superiors, and about the President and the politicians at home who have sent you there. Be sure to include your thoughts about what you wish was different about the situation and what you would do if you were in charge.