

Writing strategies that work for this essay:

Transitions, explain own view, conciseness, scene descriptions.

Methods:

Illustrate category (mythic reality/sensory reality/personal myth) with film scenes.

Connect the scene to an idea (not a description) from Hedges that is relevant to the paper topic.

Analyze the scene by asking (implied) questions, especially why questions.

Process:

1. In one of your pre-draft papers, choose a few sentences of your ideas that seem promising.
2. If you haven't done it already, relate your thinking to a specific scene in Bashir.
3. Is this scene related to sensory reality, mythic reality, personal myth, or all of these?
4. Find an appropriate (depending on passage in Hedges that relates to your thinking, and that's about ideas, not describing an event or giving an example.

Sample, annotated:

The animated documentary demonstrates both sensory and mythic forms of war to convey the producer's thoughts. I believed the best way the sensory form of war was displayed in one of the earlier scenes. The scene when Ari finally recalls what had occurred in the war. When he and his other army mates were in a tank shooting without any knowledge of what exactly it was they were shooting at. "I kept the deeper agonies wrapped in the cotton wool of protective forgetfulness," wrote Farley Moat (qtd by Hedges 28). For Ari and his friends, the "deeper agonies" caused by the realization of war led them to develop a "protective forgetfulness" of the war in Lebanon and particularly the massacre.

Comment [LJM1]: Original sentences selected from pre-draft paper.

Comment [LJM2]: Hedges quotation selected for its relevance to the scene.

Comment [LJM3]: Use repeated terms from the quotation to launch your analysis. Select the terms first, and then build a sentence around them that connects to the scene. Use quotation marks even if it's just a word or two.

[Why?] What they saw in the war was so horrible it caused "deeper agonies" that they couldn't bear to hold in their memories. [Why else?] Other agonies were caused by the awful things they had to do, such as collecting dead bodies and carried them away to be lifted off by helicopters, when the 19-year-old soldiers had never even seen dead people before. This "protective forgetfulness" is the outcome of the sensory reality of war, rather than the falsehoods made by the government and the military. The horror of sensory reality caused the soldiers to want to get back into the state of mythic war, so they could say that the outcome of their experiences had a higher morality and was justified in what they did, [why?] and therefore, even though they were scared, they could feel like the outcome was worth doing.

Comment [LJM4]: Ask yourself a relevant question—"why?" usually works—and then answer it. But don't include the question in your paragraph.

Comment [LJM5]: Keep asking the questions—there are usually many possible answers, and you may be able to use them all.

The crazed pointless shooting in this scene is similar to another scene, when Cami's squad of soldiers started shooting like crazy at a car, killing everyone inside, and it turned out to just be a family that happened to be in the wrong place. [What is the similarity?] Here also the soldiers' fear has made them like robots, which Hedges would say reveals...[put an appropriate Hedges quotation here]. It is also similar to the scene where innocent people were massacred by the Phalangists. These similarities suggest that the Israeli soldiers, even though they didn't participate in the massacre, were just as capable of doing it as the Phalangists were, though not because they were brave or committed to a cause. [relate to the Hedges quotation.]

Comment [LJM6]: The analysis above should help you to have and express a big idea (synthesis) like this one.

Comment [LJM7]: Connect to another scene in the movie that has some sort of similarity. The four sentences we started with have now expanded into a second paragraph.

Comment [LJM8]: A fresh analysis needs a new quotation.

This sensory reality punctures the false justification that mythic war provides.

Comment [LJM9]: A big idea that seems like it could begin a paragraph.