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# *Writer's Statement about "Navy Women Riding the WAVES: An Analysis of the Changing Generational Discourse for Females in the Navy"*

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At first, the task of choosing an idea for our Composition II research paper seemed somewhat overwhelming. There was such a wide variety of topics to write about, and it was difficult to narrow something down. My professor, Dr. Rounsaville, made the initial process easier by having us write "Thought Documents" that reflected on essays written by other students. For example, we would read a rhetorical analysis essay, and then write a reflection including our thoughts and ways to build off the ideas presented in the essay. These "Thought Documents" helped me define the format with which I wanted to approach the essay.

My next source of inspiration for this research paper came from the University of Central Florida's Veteran's History Project. My professor introduced us to the website during class, and I was immediately interested. The site supplied hundreds of interviews of Central Florida veterans ranging from service in World War II to Afghanistan. It appeared that the plethora of information could contribute valuable insight into the area of military rhetoric.

At first, I wanted to look at interviews from a similar time period and compare the speech used throughout different branches of service, such as the Marine Corp and the Navy. My professor and I discussed narrowing the topic to only one branch of service and researching their language over a span of wars. In fact, this was the initial topic in my research proposal. However, when I began to look for specific primary resources to be used in the project, I found it difficult to limit the list. After skimming through interviews, the female veterans' stories intrigued me because I was unaware of their immense contributions to the war effort. It seemed to me that their stories should be told, and this was when I decided to specifically research women in the Navy.

I am hopeful that my project contributed to the appreciation of female veterans and highlighted their advancements in the military. While listening to the interviews of all six women, their wonderful personalities and courageous spirits were evident simply by listening to them recall their days of service. By analyzing the interviews, I could see how their language mirrored larger generational changes for women in the Navy. As I dove deeper into the paper, I realized my audience was becoming more than my Composition professor and rhetoric scholars, but rather a calling to all people to learn more about these incredible women.

UCF takes pride in Central Florida's veterans, and it is important that more people understand the lessons we can learn from their personal accounts. It was an honor to portray their stories, and I am hopeful more people will get to hear them. After all, it was the sacrifices of these women that led to opportunities for our generation. It is fulfilling to know that the stories of these six veterans can live on through writing.