Imagine that you were the chief editor of the foreign desk in one of the major news agencies in Taiwan. On April 4, 2003, you needed to make a report on “War in Iraq” by selecting the following two sources. The first news story was “Saddam's masters of concealment dig in, ready for battle,” by Robert Fisk from a British newspaper, *The Independent*. The second story was “War News Gets Better,” by the editorial board of *New York Times*.

Note that Robert Fisk from *The Independent* was a reputable journalist who wrote on Middle East conflict with “alternative” standpoint. The editorial in *New York Times* had justice credential in reporting Middle East topic in the U.S. “mainstream” journalism. YOU were the GATEKEEPER of Taiwan’s news channel. You had complete power to determine information that should be read by your readers and audiences in Taiwan.

**Please read the two articles and answer the following questions.**

(1). Write a brief summary for each of the two stories and tell the main points of these two articles. (Please use your own words. Do not fall into plagiarism by direct copy and paste of the news content.) (30%) 

(2). Compare and contrast the two articles. Specify the difference and make your argument on how journalist writing can be influenced by ideology of the reporter. (30%)

(3). State your decision on the use of the article/s. Explain the reasons why you use particular article (or both) and tell how your decision is significant and helps readers and audiences in Taiwan understand the world better. (40%)
Robert Fisk: Saddam's masters of concealment dig in, ready for battle

03 April 2003

The road to the front in central Iraq is a place of fast-moving vehicles, blazing Iraqi anti-aircraft guns, tanks and trucks hidden in palm groves, a train of armoured vehicles bombed from the air and hundreds of artillery positions dug into revetments to defend the capital. That a Western journalist could see so much of Iraq's military preparedness says as much for the Iraqi government's self-confidence as it does for the need of Saddam Hussein's regime to make propaganda against its enemies.

True, there are signs of the Americans and British striking at the Iraqi military. Two gun pits had been turned to ashes by direct air strikes and a military barracks - empty like all the large installations that were likely to be on the Anglo-American target list - had been turned into grey powder by missiles.

On a rail track south of Hillah, a train carrying military transport had been bombed from the air, the detonations blasting two armoured vehicles off their flat-bed trucks and hurling them in bits down an embankment. But other armoured personnel carriers, including an old American M113 vehicle - presumably a captured relic from the Iranian army - remained intact. If that was the extent of the Americans' success south of Baghdad, there are literally hundreds of military vehicles untouched for a hundred miles south of the capital, carefully camouflaged to avoid air attack.

Like the Serb army in Kosovo, the Iraqis have proved masters of concealment. An innocent field fringed by palm trees turned out to be traversed with bunkers and hidden anti-aircraft guns. Vehicles were hidden under motorway bridges - which the Americans and British do not wish to destroy because they want to use them if they succeed in occupying Iraq - and fuel trucks dug in behind deep earth revetments. At a major traffic intersection, an anti-aircraft gun was mounted on a flat-bed truck and manned by two soldiers cleaning the pale blue early summer skies.

Above the centre of Hillah, home to the ancient Sumerian Babylon, a distant American Awacs plane could be seen circling high in the heavens, its path followed by scores of militiamen and soldiers. Driving the long highway south by bus, I could see troops pointing skywards. If hanging concentrates a man's mind wonderfully, fearing an air strike has almost the same effect. Driving the highway, a lot of illusions are blown from the mind. There are markets in the small towns en route to Babylon, stalls with heaps of fruit and vegetables. The roads are crowded with buses, trucks and private cars - far outnumbering the truckloads of troops and, just occasionally, the sleek outline of a missile transporter with canvas covers wrapped tightly over the truck it is haulng.

In the town of Iskandariyah, cafes and restaurants were open, shops were selling take-away meat balls and potatoes. This was not a population on the edge of starvation; nor indeed did the people appear to be frightened. If the Americans are about to launch an assault through this farmland of canals and forests of palm trees and wheat fields, it looked at first glance yesterday like a country at peace.

At one point, only 20 miles south of Baghdad, there came the thump of bombs and the bus shook with the impact of anti-aircraft rounds. A series of artillery pieces to our right were firing at an elevation over our heads, the gun muzzles blossoming golden flame and smoke, the shells exploding above the canopy of grey smoke from Baghdad's oil fires which now spreads 50 miles south of the city. The images sometimes moved towards the boundaries of comprehension. Children jumping over a farm wall beside a concealed military radio shack; herds of camels moving like biblical animals past a Soviet-made T-72 battle tank hidden under palm branches; fields of yellow flowers beside fuel bowsers and soldiers standing amid brick kilns; an incoming American missile
War News Gets Better

NY Times Editorial
03 April 2003

After bitter bickering over the adequacy of the invasion force and a delay caused by blinding sandstorms and attacks on the supply lines, the allied campaign in Iraq has finally begun moving again. Over the last two days American forces have scored some heartening successes. They do not guarantee a quick end to the war, but they did offer a hint of light at the end of the tunnel.

Both the Army's Third Infantry Division and the First Marine Division, long stalled some 50 or more miles south of Baghdad, have routed the Iraqi forces confronting them and pushed within 20 miles of the Iraqi capital. The relative ease of this advance can be attributed to the immense pounding Republican Guard divisions have taken in thousands of allied air attacks over the past four days. Still ahead lie several more Iraqi divisions, the ever-present fear of chemical warfare and the prospect of urban fighting in Baghdad, an operation that will require the greatest skill lest it become a destructive debacle.

Meanwhile, in Najaf, the Army's 101st Airborne Division was met by crowds of welcoming residents who urged them on. This was the warmest reception the invading forces have received so far and raised hopes that if the paramilitary forces could be contained elsewhere, this campaign might begin to look more like the long-promised "liberation" of the Iraqi people. The American troops showed admirable restraint in Najaf by refusing to attack paramilitary forces that had fired at them from a renowned mosque. Had the Americans fired into the mosque, they would have outraged the populace and handed Iraq a propaganda victory.

By any measure, the heroic rescue of Pfc. Jessica Lynch, a 19-year-old Army supply clerk who had been wounded and captured by the Iraqis, was the most heartwarming event in recent days. Private Lynch had joined the Army largely because there were few other opportunities in her impoverished West Virginia community, and she saw the Army as a way to pay for college and qualify to teach in an elementary school. To many, she represents all the support staff and reserve soldiers suddenly plunged into danger by this war.

A daring raid by Special Operations forces snatched Private Lynch from an Iraqi hospital. Her rescue provided a new symbol, reminding relatives and friends of U.S. soldiers of the homecomings waiting at the other end of the march to Baghdad.