

## Lesson 7

## READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

## West Point

Floyd's parents were overjoyed when he won an appointment to West Point. They were not paupers, but they had recently experienced several financial setbacks. They had been struggling to find a way to help support Floyd. The cost of an education at Stanford, the campus of his choice, had sky-rocketed past their budget. Now Floyd could get an excellent education at West Point, and it would be free.

Thinking about the future, Floyd wasn't daunted by the authoritarian atmosphere at the academy. He would thrive in a setting of law and order. After four years at West Point, Floyd would be launched into a military career. He'd be required to serve as an officer in the Army for a few years. This is the way he would repay the government for its investment in his education.

But Floyd really didn't want to be a soldier. He hoped he could avoid being embroiled in an armed conflict. In a moment of self-reflection, Floyd wondered if this was a personal flaw. Other cadets must feel the same way. After all, you'd have to be crazy to want to wage war.

It would be awkward, but perhaps Floyd should withdraw.