

9-11 Prompt

On September 11th of 2001 a total of 19 Al Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes in midflight and flew two of them into the World Trade Center Towers, and a third into the Pentagon, while the fourth airplane crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Some believe that those terrorists intended to attack the White House or U.S. Capitol. There were almost 3000 people killed that day in this unprecedented attack made on American soil. America responded with military force in Afghanistan first, and later would go into Iraq. 9-11 brought several issues to the forefront of American national attention. American's would become increasingly concerned over immigration, airport security, detaining terrorists at Guantanamo Bay indefinitely without trial, and the signing of the Patriot Act.

Interview a parent, grandparent, or other adult who remembers the attack of September 11, 2001. Ask about where they were or what they were doing when the attack was first announced. How did they first react? What are their feelings about 9/11 today? Focus your conversation among any or all of the following areas. Assemble their responses into an essay or poem (2 pages in length.)

1	Naturally after such an attack on America many U.S. citizens became very concerned about our borders and immigration. Just how far should we go to make sure that people who aren't citizens can't enter the United States?
2	Almost immediately after the attack airports all over the United States increased security measures to the point where many Americans questioned that their personal rights to privacy and against unwarranted searches was being violated. How far should we go with airport security in this country?
3	When President Obama took office he promised to close down the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This prison is especially controversial due to the fact that is it not on United States soil. Prisoners from the "War on terror" are being housed indefinitely without promise of a trial or "due process" rights which American citizens enjoy. If we shut down Guantanamo bay there are some concerns about giving foreign terrorists rights that American citizens enjoy, and other concerns that we would be increasing the likelihood that American cities would become increased targets where we moved the Guantanamo Bay prisoners. Should these prisoners have rights that American citizens enjoy? Should we close down Guantanamo Bay possibly making American cities increased targets for terrorism?
4	The Patriot Act was signed into law October 26, 2001. It dramatically reduced the restrictions placed upon law enforcement, and the government when it comes to searching and obtaining telephone, e-mail, medical, financial, and other records. How far do we as Americans let this type of intrusion on our personal privacy go?
5	Much has changed in the years since 9/11. The events of that day have impacted not just America, but the world. Do you think the world is more or less vulnerable today than in 2001? How have our freedoms been impacted?