

Remembering September 11: Considering Oral Histories



Part I - Instructions:

In addition to the thousands of individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, countless people from the United States and around the world were deeply affected by the attacks. Their experiences are a part of the history of September 11. To gain a deeper understanding of September 11, you will interview someone who vividly remembers this event. The subject of your interview could be an older sibling, a relative, or a family friend. You might want to forward these questions before you conduct the interview, so the person is familiar with the questions. Please note – we intend to publish a book of these interviews for your class after the project is complete.

Since September 11 is a painful and emotional memory for many people, sensitivity and respect on your part are essential. Try not to interrupt as people tell their stories. You may find it helpful to make an audio or video recording of your interview. During the interview, you should seek answers to the questions below AND ask additional follow up questions. Your interview should also include a picture of the person you interviewed. The interview must be typed and uploaded to a Google Drive (to be determined by your teacher in the fall) in preparation for Part II.

Part I Due Date : SEPTEMBER 13 (Monday)

1. Name of interviewee[the person you interviewed]_____
2. What were you doing on September 11, 2001? How did you find out about the attacks?
3. What was your immediate reaction to the attacks? What memories are most vivid?
4. What do you remember about the response of people in the United States? The international community? The U.S. government?
5. Do you consider September 11 to be a pivotal event in your life? In the history of the United States? In world history? Did September 11 change things? (For example, your personal life? Your views of the United States and the world?)
6. What did you think about terrorism before the attacks? Did the attacks change your view on terrorism? If so, how? Do you feel the same way today?
7. What lessons do you think September 11 offers people in the United States?(i.e. – increased nationalism/unity, unpreparedness, government response – Federal/local)

Additional Questions/Follow-up Question: (you need at least 3)

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Part II - Instructions:

Instructions: Read TWO (2) interviews that were uploaded by your classmates to the Google Drive (Excluding the interview you conducted). Answer the questions below using information from interviews that your classmates conducted. Upload your responses to Google Classroom.

1. What information did you learn about September 11 from the other interviews?
2. In what ways were the responses of interviewees similar to each other AND to the interview you conducted? Did the interview subjects share any common memories, experiences, or attitudes?
3. How did people's experiences and views differ? In what ways were the responses of interviewees different from each other AND from the interview you conducted?
4. Do you think that conducting interviews about individuals' experiences is a valuable way to learn about history? Why? Why Not? Explain - What are the benefits of oral history? What are its limitations?

Part II Due Date: October 18 (Monday)

Checklist:

Part I

- ✓ Conduct an interview of a person who lived through the events of 9/11
- ✓ Identify the interviewee by name and include a photo
- ✓ Type the interview (Question followed by response)
- ✓ Ask at least three (3) follow up questions
- ✓ Do not accept a YES/NO response without an explanation
- ✓ Upload your interview to the Google Drive provided by your teacher (in the fall)



Part II

- ✓ Select two (2) other interviews from the Google Drive conducted by your classmates
- ✓ Read the interviews
- ✓ Answer all four (4) questions in paragraph format
- ✓ Identify the interviewees (cite the student and the interviewee)
- ✓ Upload your responses to the appropriate Google Classroom

Your teacher will send you a detailed **grading rubric** before summer vacation.

Interviewed by: Student Name

1. Name of interviewee : Jane Doe

2. What were you doing on September 11, 2001? How did you find out about the attacks?

Response:

2x spaced



3. What was your immediate reaction to the attacks? What memories are most vivid?

Response:

2x spaced

4. What do you remember about the response of people in the United States? The international community? The U.S. government?

Response:

2x spaced

