

## Daily Writing Question

How do you think we still feel the effects of 9/11 today?



September 11, 2001

# Attack on the World Trade Center

- **8:46 am** - Hijacked Flight 11 crashes into 1 World Trade Center
- **9:03 am** - Hijacked Flight 175 crashes into 2 World Trade Center
- Both World Trade Center buildings and several buildings in the surrounding area begin evacuation, emergency response services move in
- Both buildings collapse shortly after
- NY Mayor Rudy Giuliani orders that most of lower Manhattan be evacuated - many people leave on foot, cellphone towers fail as they are overloaded
- **2,753 people are killed**







# Attack on the Pentagon

- **8:20 am** - Flight 77 takes off from Dulles Airport in Washington D.C.
- **9:37 am** - Hijackers crash the 757 into the western facade of the Pentagon (where the Department of Defense is located in Washington, D.C.)
- **By 10 am** - The White House and U.S. Capitol, as well as other high-profile buildings and landmarks, are evacuated
- **184 people are killed**



# United Flight 93

- **8:41 am** - United Flight 93 takes off from Newark Airport in NJ. The plane is hijacked shortly after
- **10:07 am** - After contacting their friends and family from the plane and learning about the attacks taking place in D.C. and NYC, the passengers aboard the plane realize the likely purpose behind the takeover of the plane. They create a plan to try to regain control of the aircraft
- In response, the hijackers deliberately crash the plane into a field in Somerset County, PA, **killing all 40 passengers and crew on board**



# General Response Nationwide

- **8:50 am** - President George W. Bush is notified of the attacks while reading to elementary students in Florida
- **9:42 am** – For the first time in history, the FAA grounds all flights over or bound for the continental United States. Some 3,300 commercial flights and 1,200 private planes are guided to airports in Canada and the United States over the next two-and-a-half hours.



- 1 pm - President Bush announces that the military is on high alert
- 8:30 pm – President Bush addresses the nation, calling the attacks “evil, despicable acts of terror” and declaring that America, its friends and allies would “stand together to win the war against terrorism.”





# Osama bin Laden Early Life



- Born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 1957 or 1958 to a Yemeni father who owned the largest construction company in the country. The 17th of 52 children, he had a privileged upbringing
- Unlike his siblings who traveled outside the region, he stayed close to home and married young, and was brought into the Muslim Brotherhood as a young adult
- In college, he came under the influence of radical pan-Islamist activists who advocated for a holy war that would spread the influence of Islam - bin Laden is attracted to the attacks on what he saw as a growing influence of the West on society



# Osama bin Laden's Rise to Power

- 1979 - Russia invades Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden travels to the area to finance rebel activities. He calls for and organizes others as they arrive to fight the Soviet invasion.
- 1988 - Founds Al-Qaeda ("The Base")
- Begins to call for western forces (particularly the U.S.) to leave the region, and expresses his frustration and anger with U.S. support of Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the presence of the United States in Saudi Arabia following the Gulf War in the early 1990s.
- As the influence of Al-Qaeda spreads, bin Laden uses these operatives to engage in a series of terrorist attacks over the next few years (bombing of a hotel in Yemen that housed American forces - 1991, 1993 World Trade Center bombing, 1998 - series of coordinated attacks on U.S. embassies, 2000 bombing of the U.S.S. Cole)



# Al-Qaeda



- Founded by Osama bin Laden, 1988
- Dedicated to opposing non-Islamist governments with force and violence
- Opposed U.S. occupation of various parts of the Saudi Arabian peninsula
- Works both on its own and through contacts with other terrorist organizations
- Moved its operations into Afghanistan in 1996 when Osama bin Laden was pushed out of Saudi Arabia, began forming connections to the Taliban

# Taliban



- Sunni Islamist group, operates primarily out of Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Taliban = “Students of Islamic Knowledge”
- Goal is to impose their interpretation of Islamic law on Afghanistan and remove foreign influence
- Ruled most of Afghanistan from 1996-2001
- The group imposes strict Islamic laws on the Afghan people. Women must wear head-to-toe coverings, are not allowed to attend school or work outside the home and are forbidden to travel alone. Televisions, music, and non-Islamic holidays are also banned.





Where Osama bin Laden is born and where he begins to oppose Western influence

bin Laden flees here and forms Al-Qaeda

Spheres of influence of the Taliban



# Motivations and Causes of the Attacks

- Desire to remove foreign/U.S. influence from the Saudi Arabian peninsula (particularly as it relates to U.S. occupation of areas in proximity to holy sites)
- Opposition to Western culture, influence of Western culture on the region
- Opposition to political support of Israel over Palestine



# Effects of the 9/11 Attacks

- U.S. experienced a wave of **patriotism**. People gathered together in public places, benefit concerts were held, flags were flown outside homes across America.
- Many turn to religion or charity, others are angry and frustrated, looking for a way to respond.
- **Attacks against and harassment of Muslims** occurs across the country (over 600 in the 10 days following September 11)
- October 7, 2001 “**Operation Enduring Freedom**,” or the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan begins in an attempt to remove the Taliban and Al-Qaeda from the country.
- President Bush’s approval ratings soar (90% approval) and the **PATRIOT Act** is passed in 2002, expanding surveillance activities and making immigration laws more strict.

# Witness 9/11 Response Questions

1. What are the effects of terrorism on:
  - a. Humans?
  - b. Society?
  - c. Government?
  - d. Foreign Policy?
2. Why should 9/11 be remembered?

# What is oral history?

- An oral history is an interview (could be a transcript, a video, or an audio recording) of someone's memories of an historical event or period in time.
- Usually driven by the questions of an interviewer.
- Could have a theme or just be more like a conversation.

# How do I construct an oral history?

- Choose who you will interview
- Consider giving them the questions ahead of time
- Let the person you are talking to know if you would like to record them
- Decide - what parts of what they said will you include?



# 9/11 Oral History Example Paragraph

After interviewing Katie Schrage, I learned that on September 11, 2001, she was an 8th grader at Cedar Park Elementary School. She was woken up by her mom, walked downstairs and her mom placed her in front of the TV. Annoyed she had been woken up, she was confused at what was going on but once she saw the images on the TV she was horrified. She went to school and in U.S. History they talked about the attacks and she remembered being scared and unsure of the future. She was signed up to go on an east coast tour with her school that June and people began to question whether or not it was appropriate for the students to travel to the east coast. Several families pulled their kids out of the tour, fearing for their safety. As Ms. Schrage discussed with her mom about whether or not she could go, she distinctly remembers her mom saying, "Life goes on and you can't stop doing things. And you're not going to stop doing things." While she stood at Ground Zero 8 months later after 9/11/01, she looked at the gaping hole in the ground and the flowers, cards and pictures that surrounded the area. Standing there, she finally realized the 3,000 people who were killed were people. People with families, life, happiness and dreams. The event finally became personal to her and much more than just a national catastrophe as she pictured one of her own family members in the towers.

# TICKET OUT THE DOOR

Before you are dismissed, you must create and get checked off for:

1. The name of someone you would like to interview
2. 6-8 questions you could ask your interviewee