Discussion Guide

On September 11, 2001, al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger airplanes and killed thousands of innocent people in New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania. Through guided classroom discussion, students can come to better understand this defining moment in America's history. The following discussion questions will prompt students to consider the bravery and selflessness of first responders and other community members, the impacts that the attacks had on global policies and day-to-day life in America, and more.

Before engaging your classroom in discussion, visit www.discoveryeducation.com/911/ to learn more about Discovery Education's *RISE: Reconnect and Remember* live streamed panel discussions featuring interactive Q&A from local and virtual participants. Consider participating in one of these events with your class.

Wednesday, September 7, 1:30 - 2:30 PM
Shanksville Stonycreek High School · Shanksville, PA

Friday, September 9, 12:45 - 2:15 PM
NYC iSchool · New York, NY

Monday, September 12, 1:45 - 2:45 PM
Wakefield High School · Arlington, VA

Tuesday, September 13, 12:30 - 1:30 PM
American History High School · Newark, NJ

Video of the live events will be archived and made available through www.discoveryeducation.com/911/, as well.

Describe the events of September 11. Who was responsible for the attacks? What actions did the U.S. government take on September 11? How did Americans and the international community respond?

Every year since 2001, Americans have spent September 11 remembering those who died on that tragic day. They have also remembered the compassionate, generous response of first responders at and community members near Ground Zero. Who were the first responders? What were they called upon to do when they arrived at Ground Zero? How did other community members assist?

On September 11, the New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania attack locations were each affected in a different way. What happened at each location on September 11? What obstacles faced each community when their recovery efforts began? Consider both the physical recovery at the locations as well as the emotional recovery of individuals in the communities of each location.

Middle Eastern and Muslim Americans faced unique challenges in the wake of September 11. Why? What were some of the challenges they faced? Consider what role stereotyping, profiling, and intolerance played in those challenges in your response.

Soon after the destruction of the World Trade Center (WTC), prominent politicians including Mayor Rudy Giuliani and President George W. Bush were vocal in their support to rebuild the site. At the time, however, many Americans did not support rebuilding at Ground Zero. Discuss the reasoning behind each position. Why should the site be rebuilt? Why should the site not be rebuilt?

What do you know about the features of the new World Trade Center (WTC)? How does the rebuilt WTC honor the past? How does it embrace the future?

What do you know about the architecture and engineering of the new One World Trade Center—the main building of the WTC complex? How was its design influenced and informed by what happened on September 11?

The September 11, 2001 attacks took America—and the world—by surprise. In that regard, September 11 is often compared to the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Further compare and contrast these events. How else are they alike? How are they different?

What is terrorism? Recall terrorists acts before and after September 11, 2001. Did terrorism change on September 11? Why or why not?

What is counterterrorism? Recall counterterrorism strategies and tactics before and after September 11, 2001. Did counterterrorism change on September 11? Why or why not?

Since September 11, what measures have been taken to ensure the safety of Americans? Compare security measures before and after September 11, 2001. Consider the PATRIOT Act in your response.

How do you think the events of September 11 have impacted your life today?