



Teach the Legacy of 9/11 Through Heroism, Resilience, and Unity

Explore free, classroom-ready resources designed to help students reflect on the events of September 11, 2001. These materials foster critical thinking, emotional reflection, and historical understanding of the Pentagon Memorial and the lives it honors.

Discussion Questions

Theme: Heroism

1. What defines a hero in the context of 9/11?

Discuss the difference between ordinary and extraordinary acts of bravery. Consider how civilians and first responders alike demonstrated heroism.

2. Can someone be a hero without intending to be one?

Reflect on how some individuals may have become heroes by simply doing what they believed was right, without seeking recognition.

3. How does heroism in the face of danger inspire others?

Explore how the actions of 9/11 heroes continue to inspire people today and how that inspiration manifests in modern society.

Theme: Resilience

1. What does resilience mean in the context of a national tragedy?

Discuss how the United States and its people demonstrated resilience in the aftermath of 9/11.

2. How do individuals and communities rebuild after a traumatic event?

Reflect on the physical, emotional, and societal rebuilding that took place after 9/11, and what factors contribute to a resilient recovery.

3. Can resilience be learned, or is it an inherent quality?

Debate whether resilience is something that can be developed through experience or if it's an innate characteristic.

Theme: National Unity

1. How did 9/11 affect national unity in the United States?

Discuss the ways in which the country came together after the attacks and how that unity was expressed.

2. Is national unity in the face of tragedy sustainable over the long term?

Reflect on whether the sense of unity seen after 9/11 has lasted, and what factors have influenced its endurance or decline.

3. In what ways can national unity be promoted and maintained?

Consider how leaders, communities, and individuals can work to maintain a sense of unity in the country, especially in challenging times.