

9/11 LESSON PLAN

Objectives and Goals:



1. Study of 9/11 and effectiveness of US War on Terror
2. Analyze possible alternative responses to the 9/11 terrorist attack
3. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media

TIME: 30-45 minutes



PROCEDURE



1 minute
Teacher reads:

"On September 11th 2001, four airplanes were hijacked and used as weapons in a terrorist attack on New York City and the Pentagon. As a result, the US went to war against terror, primarily in Afghanistan and Iraq. A war that has encompassed your entire lives. This may seem like history to many of you who were not yet born in 2001, but the memories live on for people all around the world who lived through it. And the consequences have deep and continuing effects on the world you are living in. Every September 11, we commemorate this terrible attack so that we "Never Forget" and continue to learn from the ongoing significance of this day. We will now watch a video showing what happened that day.

Approximately 7
minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4CAwifY-dU>



10 minutes-
Discussion.

Turning to your neighbor(to the left right in front of or in back of) Discuss the following questions one at a time. You will have about 5 minutes.

- 1.What is your initial response to these events?
(Possible responses: students may express surprise, disgust, fear, anger.)
 - 2.Our country went on to invade Afghanistan and then Iraq. Why do you think President Bush made this decision? (revenge, deterrence, will of the people?)
- Teacher calls on one or two students to share with class



10-15minutes
Teacher says:

"Since 9/11 over 2,400 US servicemembers and 50,000 Afghan civilians have died. About 30,177 US veterans died by suicide. The United States declared a war on terror, initiating wars in Afghanistan 2001 and Iraq in 2003. There are those who feel strongly there were other ways to respond which would not have LED to more violence and the deaths of so many more people, civilians and as well as combatants."

Following short
videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvE0X3alkFY> **Peaceful Tomorrows**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvnLtMKzX6Y> **Barbara Lee**



Here is a statement signed and issued by members of the staff of the War Resisters League which was drafted right after witnessing the September 11:
Teacher displays the following statement and reads or asks a student to read it out loud:

Statement on September 11 Attack

"...As we sit in our offices here at War Resisters League, our most immediate thoughts are of the hundreds if not thousands of New Yorkers who have lost their lives in the collapse of the World Trade Center. The day is clear, the sky is blue, but vast clouds billow over the ruins where so many have died, including a great many rescue workers who were there when the final collapse occurred.

Let us seek an end of the militarism that has characterized this nation for decades. Let us seek a world in which security is gained through disarmament, international cooperation, and social justice not through escalation and retaliation. We condemn without reservation attacks such as those which occurred today, which strike at thousands of civilians. May these profound tragedies remind us of the impact U.S. policies have had on other civilians in other lands. We also condemn reflexive hostility against people of Arab descent living in this country and urge that Americans recall the part of our heritage that opposes bigotry in all forms.

We are one world. We shall live in a state of fear and terror or we shall move toward a future in which we seek peaceful alternatives to violence, and a more just distribution of the world's resources. As we mourn the many lives lost, our hearts call out for reconciliation, not revenge."

– David McReynolds, WRL, September 11, 2001

Teacher says:

"The attacks of September 11th were intended to break our spirit. Instead we have emerged stronger and more unified.... We are more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom.... The city is going to survive, we are going to get through it, it's going to be a very very difficult time , but the thing we have to focus on now is getting this city through this and surviving and being stronger for it."

– Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani

You have just heard five very different reactions to the September 11th attack. If 9-11 were to happen today instead of 20 years ago, and knowing what we now know about the human cost of war, which statement below do you think would have the greatest impact on Americans today? With your elbow partner, rate the following quotes in the order of how impactful you think it would be for Americans to hear today should there be a future attack, #1 being the most impactful and #5 being the least.

- A. ___ President George Bush: " Our very freedom came under attack"
- B. ___ Congresswoman Barbara Lee: " I am convinced that military action will not prevent further acts of international terrorism against the United States"...
- C. ___ Families for a Peaceful Tomorrow: "Think hard about ways to respond that would not continue the cycle of violence"
- D. ___ Rudy Guiliani: "The attacks of September 11 were intended to break our spirit. Instead we have emerged stronger and more unified. The city is going to survive, we are going to get through it...but the thing we have to focus on now is getting this city through this and surviving and being stronger for it."

Below is a list of possible reactions a country's leader might use in reaction to being attacked. Using the list of quotes above, who or what organization do you think would most likely be the one to advocate for the use of one the options listed below. Hint: there may be more than one answer

1. _____ Targeted policing of terror groups and suspects
2. _____ Military invasion of the suspected country
3. _____ Negotiations to deal with the root reasons why terrorism exists. Terrorism has to have the support of the local population. If the grievances are alleviated through negotiations-that removes the bitter resentment and anger which fuels terrorist recruitment and groups.
4. _____ Humanitarian and development aid-which deals with injustice and inequality in security and quality of life.

Extended learning/extra credit

Has the War on Terror been effective? Has it diminished the threat of terrorism? Improved U.S. security? What are the alternatives?

Do you believe the U.S. government has a responsibility to address the range of negative consequences from War on Terror? Explain.

Does the U.S. government have any responsibility towards civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq killed by U.S. bombing?

Standards:

RI 6. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text. Social Studies/History:

RH 7. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

RST 7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

Questions? Suggestions? Comments? Contact Educators for Peace at <https://educatorsforpeace.info/>