

The 9/11 Attacks: A Teachers Toolkit

In his letter to educators, Lee Ielpi, president of September 11th Families' Association, writes, "How can education help young people learn about our world so they can work towards eliminating the circumstances that cause terrorist attacks? How do we perceive people in other countries and other cultures and how they perceive us? Why does the threat of terrorism continue? What can we do to minimize it?"

To help teachers answer these questions, the [9/11 Tribute Center](#) has prepared "September 11th Personal Stories of Transformation," a [classroom resource kit](#) that contains 8 videos "of personal stories of transformation" of individuals affected by the 9/11 attack. Each story is accompanied by discussion questions that guide students to connect outcomes of the historic events of September 11th to the choices they make in their own lives.

Appropriate for grades 5 – 12, the 9/11 Tribute Center classroom resources provide historic context, research links, and community service projects for each story.

One story is about Ada Dolch who was principal of a high school that is a block away from the World Trade Center site. She led her students out of danger and then supported them emotionally when they returned to a challenging environment. In honor of her sister, who died in Tower One, she helped fund a new school in Afghanistan.

The materials are all standards-based with a link to the following standards: Historical Thinking Standards, United States History, World History, National Standards for Civics and Government and English/Language Arts Standards.

Also included are sections on Definitions, Timeline, a Map, Back Story Biographies, Classroom and Service Projects, Connect and reflect Activity and an extensive section on Research Resources. There is also a section for teachers on how to use these resources with students.

A "Goals for These Resources" section outlining what can be learned from studying September 11th that is applicable to the future.

The 9/11 Tribute Center is a museum across from the World Trade Center Site and offers exhibits and walking tours to the general public.

September 11th has particular meaning for the labor movement: the pilots and flight attendants, police officers, fire fighters, EMTs and other first responders, sanitation workers, teachers and, of course construction workers are all union members. In addition, extensive support was provided by a variety of unions around the country as well as the AFL-CIO and its state and local affiliates, particularly in New York and the other sites.

As Lee Ielpi wrote, "Teachers in the United States and around the world have the opportunity to guide our young people to realize local and global avenues for change." Using the resources of the WTC Tribute Center is the perfect place to begin.