Remembering September 11

*Instructions:* In addition to the thousands of individuals who lost their lives on September 11, countless people from the United States and around the world were deeply affected by the attacks. Their experiences are a part of the history of September 11. To gain a deeper understanding of September 11, you will be asked to interview someone who vividly remembers this event. The subject of your interview could be a parent, other older relative, or family friend.

Since September 11 is a painful and emotional memory for many people, sensitivity and respect on your part are essential. Try not to interrupt as those who share their stories. In the course of the interview, you should seek answers to the questions below. As you are conducting the interview, record a summary of what your interviewee shares. This assignment is designed to allow you to practice strategies for taking notes during an interview — we will also discuss in class the benefits and limitations of taking notes.

Be prepared to share the results of your interview in class. Record in the space below the name of the interviewee and the interviewee’s relationship to you. As noted above, then seek responses to the questions below and record the responses using note-taking strategies.

1. What were you doing on September 11, 2001? How did you find out about the attacks?

2. What was your immediate reaction to the attacks? What memories are most vivid of that event?
3. What do you remember about the initial response of people in the United States? What do you remember about the response of the international community?

4. Do you consider September 11 to be a pivotal event in your life? Please explain why or why not.

5. What long-term impact, if any, do you believe September 11 has had on the United States? (That is, how have the events of September 11 changed life in the U.S. today?)