

How 9/11 Changed My View of America

Even though I was not alive when 9/11 happened, I know that no one views the United States the same. When I first learned about 9/11, I never really knew how important it was or how much one day could change someone's life. September 11, 2001, is an important day in American history because it was a tragedy. Thousands of innocent people died that day. Through school and the media, I have learned that America will never be the same and that this tragedy caused many changes that are normal today. Learning about 9/11 has changed the way I look at America because although no one knew about the hijacking beforehand, I feel that some of it could have been avoided if we had better security back in 2001. Overall, 9/11 has affected my patriotism by showing me the strengths of our country and the challenges that come with protecting it. Now that I understand the meaning of 9/11 more, I do not just love America because I was born here. I now see it as appreciating my country while also recognizing the flaws it has, understanding the importance of knowing our history, and coming together as one.

Something that affects me to this day about 9/11 is learning how scared people were to die inside the buildings because of the fires. Some people felt like the only way to get out was to jump. Imagine saying goodbye to your loved ones and not even realizing that was the last goodbye. I couldn't even imagine my life changing this way. Although I was not alive to experience 9/11, it feels so personal to me knowing that these people were innocent. They were someone's mom, dad, daughter, son, sister, brother, friend, or loved one. Thinking about that makes me realize that the people who died were not just numbers. They had families, friends, and people who were waiting for them to come home.

Another major way 9/11 has affected my perspective is through the media. The media has helped me understand 9/11 so much more because I have seen multiple survivor stories and interviews. Watching people talk about their experiences honestly made me so proud of strangers, but also numb. Just hearing how brave they were during this tragedy, but also how distraught they were about the people who did not survive, really affected me. Not only hearing about 9/11, but also seeing pictures and videos of it, made me realize that a lot of people do not really know how extreme this tragedy was and still is. Because of this, I think it is so important for schools to really show what happened and talk about it. I feel like America sometimes tries to paint over our history and create this picture where we need to forget. Those people who died deserve to be remembered. It is the least we can do to make sure those innocent people are never forgotten. Something I believe in is that we are the example for the next generation. We need to make the difference we want to see. We are true Americans.

Learning about the way Americans responded to 9/11 changed my understanding of patriotism because of the way people came together. It was almost as if we were all family. There was no such thing as being a "stranger." If you needed help, people helped you. The world is full of different people and beliefs that might not always agree, but when something happens to our country, it affects us all. That American flag connected us and created a sense of unity. Learning about this makes me so proud to be a part of something so pure and honest. The true meaning of being patriotic is when Americans can come together. No matter what our differences are, we can still help each other.

However, this event in history completely changed lives, not only then but even today. It created more security everywhere, especially in airports. It has also influenced many people's opinions on certain countries and communities. People have many different perspectives and debates about the choices surrounding 9/11. This has taught me that even though you love your country, that does not mean you have to believe or support everything it does. America is not perfect. I think you can love your country and still want it to do better.

All in all, 9/11 is an event that changed everyone's lives, whether they were alive to experience it or not. It is a part of history that we should never forget. Learning about 9/11 has made me proud to be an American, but it has also made me understand that being patriotic is more than just saying you love your country. It is about remembering the people who were lost, appreciating the freedom we have, learning from our history, and coming together when it matters most. We are lucky to live in a country where we have freedoms that many people around the world do not have, and I think it is our responsibility to appreciate that and make America better for the next generation.