

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE NATION
September 11, 2001 8:30 P.M.

1 Good evening. Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a
2 series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes, or in their offices;
3 secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers; moms and dads, friends and
4 neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.
5 The pictures of airplanes flying into buildings, fires burning, huge structures collapsing, have filled us
6 with disbelief, terrible sadness, and a quiet, unyielding anger. These acts of mass murder were
7 intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat. But they have failed; our country is strong.
8 A great people has been moved to defend a great nation. Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations
9 of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel,
10 but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve.
11 America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in
12 the world. And no one will keep that light from shining. Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of
13 human nature. And we responded with the best of America—with the daring of our rescue workers,
14 with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.
15 Immediately following the first attack, I implemented our government's emergency response plans.
16 Our military is powerful, and it's prepared. Our emergency teams are working in New York City and
17 Washington, D.C. to help with local rescue efforts. Our first priority is to get help to those who have
18 been injured, and to take every precaution to protect our citizens at home and around the world from
19 further attacks...
26 ...I appreciate so very much the members of Congress who have joined me in strongly condemning
27 these attacks. And on behalf of the American people, I thank the many world leaders who have called
28 to offer their condolences and assistance. America and our friends and allies join with all those who
29 want peace and security in the world, and we stand together to win the war against terrorism.
30 Tonight, I ask for your prayers for all those who grieve, for the children whose worlds have been
31 shattered, for all whose sense of safety and security has been threatened. And I pray they will be
32 comforted by a power greater than any of us, spoken through the ages in Psalm 23: "Even though I
33 walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me." This is a day when
34 all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood
35 down enemies before, and we will do so this time. None of us will ever forget this day. Yet, we go
36 forward to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our world. Thank you. Good night, and God
37 bless America.

PREVIEW
Close Reading Questions

1. What does the word deliberate mean as it is used in the passage?
 - a. Loud
 - b. Careful
 - c. Intentional
 - d. Sneaky

2. Re-read lines 2-4. What is the purpose of Bush listing the different victims' occupations/lifestyles?
 - a. To show America that many members of society were affected by this event.
 - b. To let America know who specifically was injured.
 - c. To let America know that the victims in the airplanes were injured the most.
 - d. To make America feel guilty about the victims whose lives were ended.
3. What does the word **retreat** mean as it is used in the passage?
 - a. Vacation
 - b. A place of withdrawal
 - c. Enforcement of laws
 - d. To treat again
4. Re-read lines 8-10. What is the American resolve?
 - a. Individual liberty and freedom
 - b. Political correctness
 - c. Headquarters in Washington, DC
 - d. The economy

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5. What does the word **beacon** mean as it is used in the passage?
 - a. An American ship
 - b. Inspiration
 - c. A fire
 - d. Enemy
6. What does the word **condemning** mean as it is used in the passage?
 - a. withholding information
 - b. honoring
 - c. showing admiration for something
 - d. expressing disapproval
7. Which of the following is not an example of offering **condolences**?
 - a. To express sympathy
 - b. To offer prayers for well-being
 - c. To share the news of a tragedy with others
 - d. To show comfort or concern
8. What is the **tone** of the passage?
 - a. discouraging
 - b. resentful
 - c. tearful
 - d. confident

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9. How does Bush directly contrast the terrorist acts to the response of the American people? Why does he do this?

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10. What is the role (position) of the writer?

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12. What is the author's purpose? (Persuade, Inform, or Entertain). How do you know?

Close Reading Questions - Answer Key

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 - b. Careful
 - c. Intentional**
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 - a. withholding information
 - b. honoring
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 - d. expressing disapproval**
7. Which of the following is not an example of offering **condolences**?
 - a. To communicate sympathy over the phone
 - b. To offer prayers for well-being
 - c. To share the news of a tragedy with others**
 - d. To show comfort or concern in person
8. What is the tone of the passage? (Author's attitude)?
 - a. discouraging
 - b. resentful
 - c. tearful
 - d. confident**
9. How does Bush directly contrast the terrorist acts to the response of the American people? Why does he do this?

“Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America—with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could.”

Bush states that the terrorists acted out of hatred while America acted with love. In the face of death and danger, the American people volunteered and risked their lives to help those who were injured. He is reminding the American people that we are stronger than the evil in the world and expressing pride in our nation.

10. What is the role (position) of the writer?

George W. Bush was the United States President at the time of this speech.

11. Who is the audience? **Anyone who lives in America.**

12. What is the author's purpose? (Persuade, Inform, or Entertain). How do you know?

The purpose of this speech was to inform. Bush needed to confirm the events that occurred on September 11th, 2001 to the American people. I know this because he takes time to list the specifics of the day and declared the tragedy as an act of terrorism. He also wanted to inform the American people that we are a strong nation and we will defend ourselves against anyone who attacks us. He also did not want people to panic in fear, so he reassured them that all the right precautions are being taken to prevent future attacks. I know this because he states that our military is "powerful, and it's prepared."

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