

9/11 and Its Aftermath: Debating America's Founding Ideals

What debates have arisen since 9/11 about how to balance security while preserving American ideals?

Key Content Terms	
As you complete the Reading Notes, try to use these Key Content Terms in your answers:	
Department of Homeland Security (DHS) USA Patriot Act	Military Commissions Act of 2006

PREVIEW

Listen to the eyewitness accounts from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Then respond to one of these prompts in your notebook:

- Describe how you reacted when you first learned of the attacks.
- Tell a story that you have heard about the events of 9/11. You may have heard the story from a family member, a friend, the news, or a documentary.
- Do you, or does anyone you know, think the country has changed because of the events of 9/11? If so, explain.

READING NOTES

Sections 3 to 7

Copy the matrix below onto two pages of your notebook. Create a similar matrix on a second spread, with rows for Rights (Section 6) and Democracy (Section 7).

Ideal	Debate Related to This Ideal	Placards Related to This Ideal	Has This Ideal Been Preserved?
Equality (Section 3)			
Opportunity (Section 4)			
Liberty (Section 5)			

Complete one row of your matrix for each of Sections 3 to 7. Follow these steps:

- Read the section. In the second column of your matrix, summarize one debate related to this ideal.
- Carefully examine the placards posted around the room and read any accompanying captions and quotations. In the third column of your matrix, write the letter of every placard that relates to the ideal and a short description of how it relates.
- Discuss this question with your partner: *Has this ideal been preserved in the aftermath of September 11, 2001?* In the fourth column, explain whether or not you believe the ideal has been preserved.

PROCESSING

Reflect on the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001. Choose one of the founding ideals, and write a response to this question: *How well did the nation preserve this ideal in the aftermath of 9/11?*

Your response should be at least one paragraph in length and include

- a brief description of the ideal you chose.
- a thesis statement addressing the question.
- at least two examples from the book or the activity that support your thesis.

America's Founding Ideals		
equality	opportunity	liberty
rights	democracy	