

# How I Was Affected by 9-11

*Missouri Students Share Their Experiences*



*Scott McConnell wonders why.*

## Why?

Since 9/11, I have wondered why the terrorists hated us so much. What have we done to them? It turns out U.S. policy in that region has some problems. Back in the 1980s, the U.S. supported Osama bin Laden and the Taliban because they were fighting the Russians in Afghanistan. But we shouldn't have supported the Taliban for any reason. Then, during the first Gulf War, the U.S. did a lot of damage in the area and set up military bases in Saudi Arabia, which is a holy place for Muslims. There is no excuse for

the attacks on 9/11. But we could try to understand the history and take responsibility for what we've done.

## Shock and Fear

I could not believe it happened here. I was in shock. I was very sad for all the families of the people whose lives were lost. 9/11 made me very judgmental of Muslims. They make me nervous. I don't like feeling that way towards people.



*Cindy Mortensen felt shock and fear.*

## War

Because of 9/11, my baby brother was sent to Iraq. He was due to retire, but his retirement was cancelled. He was away from home for another 28 months. We were very concerned about his safety. We were constantly monitoring the news. It was a stressful time in our family.



*Pamela Van Zee's brother went to war.*

## Background Checks

Since 9/11, it has been harder to get a job than before 9/11. Employers are doing more background checks.



*Anna Valencia noticed that it was harder to find a job.*

### My Uncle was a Firefighter

My Uncle Jeff was hurt on 9/11. He worked for the New York Fire Department and of course they were the first ones called on the job. My mom told me, "Uncle Jeff is in the hospital with a broken leg, collar bone, and bruised ribs." Thank God he was okay, but ever since then, my Uncle Jeff just isn't the same.



*Allyssa Costello's uncle was hurt on 9/11. Above: clothing worn on 9/11 is on display at the Tribute World Trade Center visitor center.*



*Matt Woodall regrets the loss of freedom.*

### Fewer Freedoms

9/11 created an excuse for the U.S. government to invade our privacy. For example, Congress passed the USA Patriot Act. The Patriot Act allows the government to monitor and videotape you without your knowledge. Police can come into your house without a search warrant. It is truly gut-wrenching to know that because of this tragic event my children will never see the same freedoms I have. I wonder if our Government took advantage of this tragic terror attack on American soil to gain more control over "we the people."

### More Empathy

9/11 gave me an idea of how people in other countries feel. It's true we were attacked on 9/11. But now people in Afghanistan and Iraq have been living with war for years. That is a lot of torment. They bleed just like we bleed. They mourn just like we mourn. I know about mourning. My cousin was killed in Afghanistan. He was trying to protect us from people who mean us harm. The brutal dictator Saddam Hussein of Iraq has been brought to justice. The leader of Al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, has been killed. It has been almost 10 full years of war. We need to bring our troops home to their families. In war, everyone gets hurt.



*Angela Hurd became more empathetic.*

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