

Describe a person or event that has had a profound impact on you and the way you ...



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Five years ago, the entire globe stood in stunned silence at the news of suicidal terrorists attacking the United States. Often referred to as the 9/11 attacks, it claimed nearly 3000 lives. Although no one I know was injured or killed in the casualty, it was certainly an event that made such a profound impact on my being and on the way I look at the world. I thought to myself that if a powerful nation such as the United States of America is found helpless and virtually unprepared in that unforeseen onslaught, weaker nations would certainly be extremely vulnerable in such situation. It was very saddening to hear that while United States and the rest of the world were dumbfounded and mourning for the considerable loss, on the other side of the globe the perpetrators were rejoicing in celebration. The simultaneous attacks were the adversaries' ploy to exhibit their competence boldly defying American sovereignty. Sandwiched between these warring nations are innocent lives that are needlessly lost. It was indeed a distressing incident that will forever be etched in the history of mankind.

I am deeply moved by the sudden turn of events. The fateful event significantly changed my outlook in life. It's not just the United States of America that was involved in that tragic incident. I awakened to the stark realization that we are presently living in a very harsh world and that we cannot afford to be indifferent. As a youth and international student, I became aware of the responsibilities ahead of me. I know very well that our generation is next in line in molding and shaping a better world. Amidst the incessant controversies, it is very crucial to observe and learn from the things that had ensued.

Although disastrous and heartrending, the 9/11 disaster brought forth present-day heroes. I admire the common people who have risked their lives

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in order to save others. I am in awe of the courageous men and women who chose to lose their lives for the benefit of many. I tried placing myself in their situation and realized the greatness of their determination and effort. They did not think twice in risking their very lives. Even if their deaths are very depressing especially to their loved ones, their display of bravery was exceedingly inspiring.

Personally, 9/11 was a wake up call for me. Although I am young, healthy, and picturing a bright future ahead of me, I can never boast and be too sure.

I remember a passage in the Bible in James 4: 14, which says -

" Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

The 9/11 incident opened my mind to the fact that no one among us is unsusceptible. Every one of us is uncertain of what time our death will be. It is imperative that we strive to do now all that we can while we still have our lives. We must take advantage of the time we are bestowed with to fulfill our part in making better the world we live in, to show our loved ones how much we care for them. No matter how prepared a person may be, there is still one thing inevitable: we cannot escape death. I believe it is a wake up call for all of us to hold on to our faith and strengthen our spirituality.

I am young and I have many things I want to accomplish. I have many dreams I want to achieve. I view the 9/11 attacks as a challenge for all of us to take part in protecting and defending the community wherein we and our loved ones are dwelling in. There is a great necessity to play our role to improve the world. Whether one is a soldier, a firefighter, or a common student like me, we all have a role to play to improve the world. And if ever it

is unavoidable that I die, it is my fervent wish that I die a noble death.

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