

LESSON M-UV-L2

The 9/11 Commission

Unit V: Post 9/11: Challenges and Consequences

Grade Levels: 7–8

Time: 90 minutes



The 9/11 Commission

Lesson: M-UV-L2

Unit V: Post 9/11: Challenges and Consequences

Grade Levels: 7–8

Time: 90 minutes

Objective

- Describe the findings of the 9/11 Commission and the responses of the government and individuals to the final report.

Key Terms

- homeland security
- National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (known as the 9/11 Commission)
- nonproliferation

Lesson Materials

- 9/11 Commission Report and Recommendations (found at <http://www.911commission.gov/report/911Report.pdf> and <http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/911/report/index.htm>)
- Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations: Progress Report 2011 (found at <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/implementing-9-11-commission-report-progress-2011.pdf>)
- Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations: Progress Report 2010 (found at <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/9-11-commission-update-report-7-22-10.pdf>)
- C.I.A.'s 9/11 Report Faulted Tenet (online video segment found at [http://video.nytimes.com/video/2007/08/21/washington/1194817092301/c-i-a-s-9-11-report-faulted-tenet.html?scp=3&sq=9/11 report reactions&st=cse](http://video.nytimes.com/video/2007/08/21/washington/1194817092301/c-i-a-s-9-11-report-faulted-tenet.html?scp=3&sq=9/11%20report%20reactions&st=cse))
- Former 9/11 Commission Officers Fault Government in Report (online video segment found at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/terrorism/july-dec05/commission_12-5.html)

Lesson Plan

- Begin the lesson with a group share/brainstorm activity. Place this quote from Representative Edward Markey of Massachusetts (December 5, 2005) on the board for students to discuss: “The country had a heart attack on 9/11. The 9/11 Commission today said if we don’t put in better prevention—unless we change our habits—we’ll have that second heart attack, a second terrorist attack. Let’s hope that the country listens.” Ask the students: “What does this quote mean? Has the United States ‘changed its habits’ since 9/11?”
- Place students in groups and provide each group with a copy of the Final Report on 9/11 Commission Recommendations (listed in materials). Assign each group one category from the three listed: Homeland Security and Emergency Response; Intelligence and Congressional Reform; Foreign Policy and Nonproliferation.

- Have each group prepare a summary of their topic for the class. Students may wish to present their findings in a PowerPoint format, poster format, or report format.
 - Have them use the web sites listed above to help them gather news reports of the Commission’s recommendations.
 - Have them view at least one online video from one of the above web sites.
 - Have groups gather reactions and quotes from government leaders as well as individuals.
- Have the students orally present their research to the class.

Evidence of Understanding

Evaluate students based on their participation and the quality of their group presentations.

Additional Activities and Resources

- Have students describe changes in the government policy as of today.
- Have students research the question: “How can United States security improve without infringing on the rights of citizens?”

Taking Action and Giving Service

- Go to the section of the 9/11 Commission Report titled “An Agenda of Opportunity” (http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/911/report/911Report_Ch12.pdf, page 378). Have the class identify potential projects based on the recommendations in the report for your school or for the education of young people across the globe.
- Have the class write to 9/11 report authors, Governor Kean or Vice-Chair Lee Hamilton, with their ideas for potential projects or a report on a project they implement. (*Note to Teacher:* The exercise of “finding” the correct address will provide valuable insight into the process of reaching out to lawmakers.