The human is the most complex sentient being on planet Earth. Yet, humans are subject to the same emotion that even the simplest life forms feel—fear. All creatures experience it at some level, and it is through instinct that creatures decide how to respond to it. We as humans rely on instinct to derive the answers to some of life’s most complex problems. However, by acting on instinct, we can only expect a decision to result that is as rational as the complexity of the catalyst. This is the danger of the mob-mentality that American Icons, by Ryan Piurek, points out. Often bread out of fear, the mob mentality is a precursor for irrational thought and unjust attacks on others because of its strong connection to the human instinct.On September 11, 2001, the U.S. was attacked by a terrorist organization called Al-Qaeda, a catastrophic event that created a widespread fear across the nation, which in turn produced the ideal conditions for a mob-mentality to flourish and the spark needed to reignite America’s mob-mentality on democracy. Fear of another attack led to drastic, instinctual, decision-making by government officials, as well as to the dispersion of a message of hate across the country, a message that was pro-democracy and preached the mentality, “You’re either with us or against us” (5).Preying on the human response to fear, in which protecting yourself and the things you care about becomes your soul focus, this message took hold. Democracy became the main focus of the mob that was and is America, and created a country of “proud disease-carries” (4), of which I was one. I shared with them a “‘very limited idea of what a democratic institution [should] look like, and it [was] driven a lot by fear’” (5); the fear of being alone, of being “‘one among many’” (5). It wasn’t until I read this article that I realized that I had been part of the mob mentality.It was and remains a common belief of the mob of America that democracy is the only way. We actively vilify “those who don’t agree with [the mentality]” (4) and have made it our belief that we are responsible for converting those who do no share our love for democracy. Our government, through the media and fear, has played on this country’s fear of another 9/11. I was led to believe that the world was no longer safe, that any country that didn’t share my common love of democracy was ignorant and a threat, but, dealing “in such absolutes fails to acknowledge that democracy, in its purest form, respects multiple perspectives” (4). It is in this statement that the danger of a mob mentality is proven and shows how rational thought is lost.The fear of 9/11 has led many, including myself, into a line of thought that coincides with a mob mentality, to a point during which we were no longer fighting for the things we thought we were. Democracy isn’t a dictatorship. It isn’t the beliefs of one man or woman, but a culmination of the beliefs of all. And for America as a country and for me as a lover of democracy, to deride a country just because it has a different government than America is not only irrational, but anti-democracy.