

Jacob Wall

Professor Williamson

English 1302-49

April 24, 2012

### Three different intros for research paper

Ron DiFrancesco, a 9/11 survivor, had an emotional interview from Time on being one of the only four survivors that resided at or above the impact zone of the Twin Towers. He explained that forever changing day, painting it was a “beautiful sunny day” and follows through the feelings of hopelessness to rejoice once found. Ron was on the 84<sup>th</sup> floor of Tower 2, United 175 had impacted floors 78 through 84. Nearly all of Rons coworkers were killed that day, out of pure luck or a sign from God, whichever you believe, Ron was able to survive that day. Nearly 3,000 were not that lucky though, fathers, husbands, mothers, sons, daughters, all were gone in an instant. Their family and friends lives forever changed; but along with their change – America changed. America saw an attempt to redefine privacy and security in the years since that horrific day. This attempt of outlining what privacy and security mean were brought up through the Patriot Act, one of the most controversial topics in the recent decade. Even though it has been a decade many wonder was 9/11 the reason for the Patriot Act or was it a catalyst, has the Patriot Act truly infringed on our rights as Americans, and lastly, has the Patriot Act been successful at making Americans safer even with a reduced amount of privacy and increase in security?

There heinous acts of 9/11 will forever be a part of our memory, much the same way that even nearly fifty years later people remember every detail of the day of John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas. Unlikely JFK's assassination, 9/11 redefined what it meant to live as an American, it redefined privacy and security in the post 9/11 world. The Patriot Act, one of the most controversial topics in the last decade, brought this change of privacy and security forth. Even though it has been a decade many wonder was 9/11 the reason for the Patriot Act or was it a catalyst, has the Patriot Act truly infringed on our rights as Americans, and lastly, has the Patriot Act been successful at making Americans safer even with a reduced amount of privacy and increase in security?

John Pistole, the administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) while speaking to the senate about full-body scanners in November 2010 said, "I want to assure and reassure the public [that] we are concerned about your safety, your security, and your privacy. Let's work together in partnership to ensure that we can have the best way forward" (Pistole). Where has security and privacy gone in the years since 9/11? To understand this we must realize that we live in a world with an "enemy [that] is nameless, faceless, and has no specific borders. This enemy is terrorism whose front is here in America" (WhiteHouse.gov). We are not defending against an enemy backed by a flag as we saw with the Cuban Missile Crisis, but rather on September 11 we had passenger jets converted to missiles for Al Qaeda to use against us. The discussion of security and privacy in the post 9/11 world is nothing new; it is arguably one of the most talked about topics in the decade since 9/11 namely due to the Patriot Act. The Patriot

Act has been brought up nearly daily; even a decade later it is still a popular topic with Americans, especially when it comes to politics. There are a few questions that remain: was 9/11 the reason for the Patriot Act or was it a catalyst, has the Patriot Act truly infringed on our rights as Americans, and lastly, has the Patriot Act been successful at making Americans safer even with a reduced amount of privacy and increase in security?