# Invisible Warfare Assessment

Name:

Date:

## Start the interview by writing down the following:

* the person's first and last name— check that you spelled it correctly
  1. Norman Whealan
* his or her year of birth
  1. 1958
* the place that he or she lived in 2001
  1. Brooklyn, New York
* the date and time of the interview
  1. April 27, 2025, 2:00 PM

## Ask the interviewee the following questions:

1. What was your most vivid memory of that day? Where were you and what were you doing? How did you feel? Tell me about it.
   1. I was stationed at my Brooklyn firehouse when the initial plane crashed. We ran as fast as we could towards Manhattan as soon as the call went out. I saw the towers on fire, the sky blackened by smoke, and people fleeing covered in dust. It was like a war scene. I was scared half to death, but instinct was on our side — our job was to do something about this, and do it immediately.
2. Were you aware of the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda? How did the media shape your impressions at that time?
   1. I was aware of al-Qaeda as a name that was mentioned occasionally. It was the attacks that put a face on them everywhere on the news. It made them the unseen enemy and created a sense of anger and fear throughout the nation.
3. What aspects of the American response do you remember?
   1. I vividly remember the tremendous solidarity for the first responders. People stood on the streets holding up signs, food, and thank-you cards. I remember the deployment of overseas troops as well as the beginning of the War on Terror.
4. What lessons should students today take away from the 9/11 attacks?
   1. Never forget the courage of regular people. You should never assume that things will always be safe. Stay resilient during the worst of times and stand together as a people.

## Ask the interviewee one question of your own and record the answer.

1. How did 9/11 change your job as a firefighter?
   * + 1. Everything was turned upside down. Firefighting wasn't just about fighting fires anymore. We began getting specific training for terror attacks, hazardous materials incidents, and mass casualty incidents.

## Answer the reflection question in at least a complete paragraph:

Choose a different example of a terrorist attack that you learned about in the lesson. What happened? Was the attack domestic or international in origin? What impact did this terrorist attack have on the affected country and the broader world?

The other terrorist attack I have read about was the Oklahoma City bombing. Where there was a truck bomb outside a federal building that killed 168 people and hurt hundreds of others. The attack was domestic as American citizens were angry with the government. It surprised the nation and resulted in significant reforms concerning the security of government buildings. It also reminded the world that terrorism is not just something that happens outside a country's borders; it could come from within the country's own borders as well.