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Jon Stewart Addresses September 11th

September 11, 2001 is a tragic and unforgettable day for The United States. Almost three-thousand citizens lost their lives in the terrorist attack targeting the centerpiece of The World Trade Center, the twin towers. The Comedy Central Network's "The Daily Show", focuses on making satirical jokes revolving around politics, however, on this day no satire was in play. Jon Stewart, the host, addresses the events of this horrible day though explaining how it effected The United States. I am personally able to connect with his sorrow and the sorrow of our country by looking back at my emotions at the time of the tragedy. As Jon Stewart addresses the pain of our country after September 11th, I am able to feel empathetic towards him due to my recollection of dealing with grasping the concept of death, as a first grader at the time of the tragedy, and my understand of the attack now, as a freshman in college.

Stewart opens his show by forewarning his audience this particular show is not going to be like his others as he addresses the tragedy at The World Trade Center. He claims he is yet another "shaken host" to appear on TV. His pain and confusion is evident in his tone of voice and expression as he takes a moment to acknowledge the victims. As he takes large swallows as if to clear his throat, I remember the feeling of a large knot in my throat. Although I was young and only understood the basics of what our country was going through, I am able to connect with Stewart's video due to what I was feeling at the time of the attack as a first grader. Even though the death of my one friend is not comparable to the loss of two-thousand people, the concept of death is the

same. No one and nothing comes back and that is a hard pill for a first grader, let alone a whole country, to swallow. This is why I am able to empathize with Stewart because I can feel his pain and confusion in his shaky voice and heavy breaths. Not only does Stewart show his pain, but he addresses what he and the rest of the country must do after September 11th. Stewart, using satire, states, “they said to get back to work and there were no jobs available for a man in a fetal position under his desk crying, which I would gladly of taken”. Stewart is saying that he, just like the rest of the country, must continue to move forward with their lives. I am able to relate with this through how I had to move past my friends death and continue with my daily routine even though it was difficult.

After covering the basics and before Stewart dives into the main reason why he wants to speak, he talks about how The United States is “country that allows for open satire”. He claims he sees the show as a privilege because they are allowed to “sit in the back and throw spitballs” at the government. Freedom of speech in The United States is a luxury which is not present in other countries. My connection with him begins to move towards my understanding of the attack now as a freshman in college. I feel fortunate to be able to make my own choices at a citizen of The United States. I am able to express my feelings and emotions just like Stewart and his staff when make satirical jokes regarding the government. After addressing the luxuries of the US, Stewart moves onto his main point of speaking for the night. He wants to tell his viewers why he “grieves” but does not “despair”. He does not despair because the aftermath of the attack has been “a dream realized”. Barriers have been broken down and “we are

judging people by not the color of their skin but the content of their character". This gives me a feeling of joy because I despise the separation in our country. I love knowing that at one point The United States was united while acting together to reach one goal. However, I also get a feeling of sorrow because the barriers that were broken down on September 11th have been rebuilt over the years. In my opinion, there is too much separation and hatred within the walls of The United States. I believe that is why Stewart was so passionate and moved by the barriers being brought down. I am only left with one question, if a tragedy like September 11th can only fix separation for a few days, then what will it take to unite the country for good?

Although I have a feeling of sorrow due to barriers being rebuilt, listening to Stewart address our country as a democracy instills me with a feeling of pride. Referring to the terrorists, he claims "any fool can blow something up and every fool can destroy". What Stewart is trying to point out is it was a large task for the terrorists to destroy the twin towers and even though they accomplished this task, the terrorists still cannot destroy the power of democracy. It is amazing to see the strong recovery of our country. Stewart presents the powerful imagery of firefighters and policemen with buckets rebuilding to back up his idea. The United States does not shut down during hardships. According to Stewart, The United States has already won because the terrorists cannot shut down the unity of democracy. I can connect with Stewart because I have a great feeling of pride and respect for our country. I know we are strong and cannot be taken down by "fools" such as terrorists. I truly believe The United States has been built on a strong foundation and will rise above any hardships.

September 11th has become an infamous day in United States history. I am able to connect with Jon Stewart and his show, "The Daily Show", covering September 11th on many different levels. I empathetic towards Stewart by looking back at on my emotions on the day of the attack. The memory of losing my friend and understanding the concept of two-thousand people losing their lives was a trying time for myself and the whole country. Not only can I connect with Stewart through past emotions, but I can also connect with him through my current understanding of the attack. Like Stewart, I believe our country is strong and I take pride in our strength. September 11, 2001 is and will forever be an unforgettable day when The United States had to rise above chaos.

