



# the Union Technologist

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## A Time for Reflection

I have been reflecting on what I can say as we begin another school year. What is important? So much has happened in the past few weeks. The terrorist attack on the U.S. makes clear how much the world has changed for us and our children. It is easy to be overwhelmed by the events and their implication, and react rather than taking the time to reflect first.

Technology has changed how we learn about and respond to events such as the terrorist attack on the U.S. Technology brings such immediacy to events, and leads to an expectation that everything can be sorted out and resolved by the end of the hour. Reflection takes time and requires that events be put into a longer term perspective. It is to our country's credit, that this is taking place.

As technological change takes place, it is important to that remember basic human values remain the same. As we increasingly rely on technology, we increasingly rely on trust in each other as human beings to use that technology for common good. It is comforting to see that we, as a nation and world, can come together even in the face of the horrific events of September 11th. We should be making sure that what we value is reflected in the way we use technology.

Teaching and learning is a personal process. Our work as educators requires time and reflection. Technology is a tool -- it does not replace a human being. Technology can be used to augment our ability to collaborate and share, to demonstrate and inspire, to analyze and assess. It can also augment our hatred and misunderstandings, mindlessly entertain us and distort our perception of the world. As teachers, we will affect how our students use technology to view the world.

The following is a sampling of resources to reflect on rather than just react to.

*Steve Titchenal*

*Director of Operations - Technology  
Cleveland Heights Teachers Union*



## America's future rests on what schools teach every day.

... We know that our lives and our world are changed, but whatever awaits us will not threaten this great republic. Americans will continue to find hope and inspiration in the individual acts of courage and heroism that we witnessed on September 11, and we will grow ever more appreciative of those American institutions and values that nourish us and make our nation a beacon of freedom and tolerance throughout the world. As we do this, it is worth remembering that our civic life and the development of our values rest heavily on our public schools. They are the centers of our communities; they safeguard our children and teach them not just to read and write and count and know about the world around them but also to respect others unlike themselves and to live by the rules a diverse democratic society imposes.

Yes, there is room for improvement in our schools, as in all our institutions, and we have to keep working at it. We must also count our blessings and, as we do so, give praise to the indomitable spirit of a city, to a nation that prizes its commitment to diversity, democracy, and tolerance; to a president who is working hard to lead his country in a terrible time; to a mayor who is having his finest hour; and to all the heroes who emerged in this disaster, including the teachers and principals and school staffs-not just those at ground zero but in all our public schools-who work every day to ensure America's future.

*AFT President Sandra Feldman*

*October 2001*

[www.aft.org/stand/previous/2001/1001.html](http://www.aft.org/stand/previous/2001/1001.html)

## Reflection —

**Mental concentration;  
careful consideration**

*American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. [www.bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com)*



Resources for helping children deal with terrorism including the U.S. Department of Education Resource: [www.ed.gov/inits/september11/](http://www.ed.gov/inits/september11/)

[www.aft.org/news/crisis\\_response.html](http://www.aft.org/news/crisis_response.html)

## google.com search on "reflection"

**"If all this suffering does not help us to broaden our horizon, to attain a greater humanity by shedding all trifling and irrelevant issues, then it will have all been for nothing..." Etty Hillesum**

www.imagesforreflection.com/  
Images for Reflection: Images of the Jewish Holocaust  
photography by Scott Sekansky

**"Thoughtful and reflective questions are no less significant than the answers..."**

Dr. Mahmoud Mehrmohammadi, Tehran, Iran  
in Research and Reflection: A Journal of Leadership and Organizations Fall 2000

### CNN NEWSROOM

#### America Under Attack

[turnerlearning.com/newsroom/specials.html](http://turnerlearning.com/newsroom/specials.html)



<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/>

Interdisciplinary lessons developed in partnership with The Bank Street College of Education in New York City. For grades 6-12.

- Examining the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks on the United States Through Editorial Writing
- Exploring How Editorial Cartoons Express Opinions About the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks on the United States
- Learning About Foreign Perspectives on Impending Warfare
- Exploring the History of Telecommunications Technology
- Using Writing as a Way to Deal With Terrorism and Tragedy
- Examining Views of Race in the Wake of the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks
- Comparing News Coverage About the Taliban Regime from Around the World

## BookTV.org

Jihad VS. McWorld: How Globalism and Tribalism Are RE-Shaping the World, Benjamin R. Barber  
isbn=0345383044

Book titles reflecting increasing interest in the Middle East, terrorism, and Osama bin Laden selected by Barbara Meade — [www.politics-prose.com](http://www.politics-prose.com)

Read the reviews on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [barnsandnoble.com](http://barnsandnoble.com)

## CSPAN in the Classroom

[www.c-span.org/classroom/sept11\\_about.asp](http://www.c-span.org/classroom/sept11_about.asp)

- Am I Safe?
- How Should the U.S. Respond?
- How Should We Address Cultural Misunderstanding?
- What are the Economic Repercussions?
- Why is the U.S. a Target?



[www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)  
news reports, interviews, discussions, radio archive

## www.chuh.org/resources/

Cleveland Heights University City School District



### Proquest: Full text of periodicals

- 'Send in the historians,' cry critics of sound-bite news
- Christian Science Monitor; Oct 4, 2001
- Comment & Analysis: Analysis: Asymmetric warfare:
- The Guardian; Manchester (UK); Oct 3, 2001

### Electric Library: Periodicals transcripts, books

Analysis: Myths and realities of the terrorist organization al-Qaeda; ( Talk of the Nation (NPR) )

### SIRS Discoverer: Current Events: selected articles

AP Multimedia Archives: World Event: photographs

[www.chtu.org](http://www.chtu.org)

[www.oft-aft.org](http://www.oft-aft.org)

[www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org)

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