



UNITED 93

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES – QUESTIONS TO ANSWER AS YOU WATCH

1. What types of activities do the terrorists engage in on the night before the attack?
2. How does the film use visuals to contrast modernity with the practices of religion that is over a thousand years old?
3. A careful look at the film reveals that Ziad Jarrah uses time to before the flight to make a personal phone call to his girlfriend to say he loved her. Why was this a cruel act in light of the passengers?
4. How many days had Ben Silney (FAA National Operations Manager in Herndon Virginia) been on the job on the morning of 9-11?
5. What events are occurring as passengers settle in for their flight on United 93?
6. How does the delay in take-off allow the passengers of United 93 to gain information unavailable to the previous hijacked flights?
7. What does the analysis of the reel-to-reel tape reveal?
8. What was originally believed to have crashed into the WTC?
9. After the second impact, what new reality began to set in in the minds of everyone who lived through 9-11?
10. What components are used to create the fake bomb?
Is it odd that most of these items could pass through pre-flight security screenings?
11. We now come to a very graphic portion of the film (one hour into the movie). Turn the page...



11. Paul Greengrass (director) said he worried about how families would react to the scenes of violence in the film. He stated that during an interview with a family member she stated that nothing he could show would be worse than what she saw in her own imagination. Most family members wanted the film to be as realistic as possible, and that is how the director proceeded. Did he make the right choice? Is it important for all of us to realistically know what happened? Why or Why not?
12. Did the Northeast Air Defense Command (NEADS) in Rome, NJ have a clear answer as to whether they were allowed to engage (shoot down) the hijacked planes?
13. How does the film show a breakdown in communications and overall societal systems on the morning of 9-11?
14. How does the information gleaned from the phone calls made on United 93 inform the passengers about what to do?
15. What are the calls to family members like?

16. There were a variety of prayers offered on the plane. How were they different? How were they similar?

17. What are the various ways in which religion manifests itself on the plane?

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

Paul Greengrass (the director) stated that the final sequence of the film, in which passengers try make their way into the cockpit are symbolic of our world today. "To me these final images are of where we're headed unless we find solutions... our fight for the controls of our world... We still have time to find another way."

18. Is this analysis accurate? Why or Why Not?

19. What "other way" might we find?

20. The passengers had to figure out what their response to terrorism would be. What do you believe our response should be?

