

### Assignment for “Come September” by Arundhati Roy

“Come September” is adapted from a speech that Roy gave in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on September 18, 2002. In the speech, Roy focuses on other historical events that happened in September – both decades before and including 2001 – in which American and other Western nations contributed to the same kind of human suffering endured by the victims of the September 11 attacks.

Answer the following questions to the **BEST** of your ability. This is to be done completely independently. It is not acceptable for your responses to closely resemble any of our classmates’ responses. **All answers should be typed.** They should be in complete sentences and use correct grammar.

1. Why does Roy spend so much time at the beginning of her speech talking about “anti-Americanism”? What does she conclude about the possibility of being “anti-” an entire country? Does she accept or reject this label? Please explain her thinking on this topic.
2. What does Roy mean when she says that the purpose of her speech is “to say to the citizens of America, the gentlest, most human way: Welcome to the World”? What kinds of experiences and emotions does Roy believe that Americans share with others the world as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks? Does knowing that significant things happened on other 9/11s change your perception of “9/11” as a historical term? Why or why not?
3. Why does Roy believe that the American way of life is not sustainable? Do you agree with her? Is this primarily a political or economic statement? Or is possibly something else?
4. Research one of the historical events that Roy mentions in “Come September.” Evaluate her account of that event. Take into account Roy’s possible biases and those of the source you find. Please include the links to any resources you use to evaluate her account.
5. Roy gave this speech in 2002. How might Roy’s speech be different if she was giving it today? What events since 2002 do you think she would have included? Think about events that would have reinforced her narrative and also those that may contradict her argument.

Each question will be graded on the following rubric.

Categories	2 points	1 point	0 points
Parts of the Question	Student answered ALL parts of the question.	Student answered SOME parts of the question.	Students fails to answer any of the parts of the question adequately
Support	Student uses quotations or specific information from the text to FULLY support answer.	Student uses quotations or specific information from the text to PARTIALLY support answer.	Student uses NO quotations or specific information from the text to support answer.
Grammar (including spelling and punctuation)	Student made only one grammatical error in his or her response.	Student made only two or three grammatical errors in his or her response.	Student made more than 3 grammatical errors in his or her response

5 questions at 6 points apiece would mean the assignment is worth 30 points, but I will be doubling it in the grade book, so it will be worth 60 points. This is approximately half the amount of points in a unit exam.