“The World Trade Center is a living symbol of man's dedication to world peace.”

--Minoru Yamasaki, chief architect of the World Trade Center

When you hear the numbers 44, 64,125, and 2,937 what do they mean to you, nothing, until you hear this: that is the number of lives lost on September Eleventh Two Thousand And One between the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the four hijacked airplanes.

44 * 64 * 125 * 2937

Those 44 people were headed in different directions starting with California, some of the 64 people preferred Coke over Pepsi, the 125 people each had a favorite television show, and the 2,937 people had plans for the future. Most could not fully understand the idea of America being under attack, America being the target, Americans being the victims. We have thousands of fears; questions, and feelings relating to the numbers 44, 64,125, and 2,937, and thanks to
Rutgers’s University and the Citizens Across Boarders Project, we were able to express our deepest emotions through the painting of a mural.

During the time of the attacks we were all in our third period classes, it was a normal day of school until 4th period. Our entire school was called to the auditorium for a surprise assembly as the breaking news came onto our television screens. That first time watching the videotapes of the assault, it was horrible, terrorizing to watch. As the days went on the replays of the attacks went through our minds until they were meaningless and seemed as though they were scripted form a scene in a science fiction novel.

Our mural is a mix of symbols and drawings presenting our personal views of the Twin Towers, an American Flag, two Newspaper clippings, and America as a country during the attack and the devastating effects that occurred after.

The towers were formally known as the World Trade Center, notice the word world. The attacks were indirectly directed at the world, they hit hard in the center of commerce. In the buildings there were not only Americans, there were about 2,000 people who represented more than 85 different countries, each of those countries were affected as well. Our towers represent those people, the ones who copied the papers, managed the bills, pushed the mail carts, answered the phones, carried the memos, and mopped the floors, those people weren't just Americans.

Our towers are burning, which many people find offensive, but that's part of what happened on September Eleventh. To the victims and their family members, the fire is not there to show pain and suffering its there to remind us never to let it happen again. Remember the past so that history does not repeat itself.

The American flag has 13 stripes representing the 13 original colonies, and fifty stars are there for the current fifty states. The flag stands for freedom, for equality, and the right of individuality.

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It's made of red white and blue, and in our mural it's drawn exactly how it is in reality. The country may not have two skyscrapers anymore, but what we stand for is still the same, and if not, something better.

Terror. Terrorism. Terrorist. Terrorize. These are the most common words found in headlines and articles from newspapers written on and after September Eleventh. If you picked up a newspaper around the world, you could almost guarantee that one of those words was used in an article describing the attack. Our newspaper has a selection of headlines and phrases to evoke the feelings of sorrow and pain felt by the world as we watched the towers crack, creak, and finally crumble with the thousands inside.

On the newspapers are the numbers one through five each one representing something that happened the day of the attacks, September Eleventh. The five standing for the five hours that were so unbelievably shocking as we watched the towers sway and shake and our building burn to a crisp, as we prayed for the people inside to find a safe journey out. The Four, standing for the four airplanes that the hijackers boarded onto and aimed at the two major United State targets. The three, standing for the three locations where planes crashed; New York City, Washington D.C., and Pittsburgh. Two stands for the two towers that went down. Finally, one stands for One nation, that when it could have easily been divided, managed to stick together during this time of hate and war. The number 3,170 is the total number of souls lost, but that we will never forget.

In the back round of our mural is the political map of the United States of America. Each state is a new bright color that represents a brighter tomorrow, we all need to pull together and help repair all damages done. All of the states added in to the repair of the physical and mental problems and tasks that New York saw in its near future. Firefighters, police officers, and many civilians traveled many hours to come help their fellow states in need. New York is black for two reasons; One, New York was still under a cloud of black smoke no matter what other states were there for a
helping hand. Two, all the states pitched in to help New York, and all the colors of the people of the nation and the colors used for the states combined end up to be black.

Although when looking at the mural in detail and up close you see many different parts, at the end, the overall view, like a puzzle, fits together. Now is the time to unite as one nation under god, for liberty and justice for all.

After Completing the piece and having a few days when and were the students and public in our community reflected on our piece we have come up with a common thought and idea from the people. Most of the viewers agreed that it was moving and sentimental, many of them it touched; but then, there were a few, who found it inappropriate and disturbing, they said that the building should not be on fire because it was such a disaster and that people do not want to remember the flames and the terrorizing day of September 11th 2001. Our response to that was; if you do not understand why something is wrong or why it happened you cant prevent it from happening again, we didn't want to ignore and exclude the disastrous parts because if no one knows of a problem, or a way of solving or dealing with it, the problem can't be fixed.