

**FORMAL RESPONSE TO WRITTEN COMMENTS,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2002
Harcourt School Publishers**

PETITIONER'S COMMENTS

Peggy Venable

Concerning *Harcourt Horizons: United States History, Grade 5*

Harcourt's Horizon's US History textbook (p 600-1) deals with the terrorist attacks in cold, distanced terms. There is no mention of who the terrorists are, or who is responsible for those horrendous acts. Hardly a mention of the heroism of the passengers on the United Airlines Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania, or of the firemen and police who lost their lives, of average citizens who rose to the challenge to protect and defend our country and our citizens.

Delia Woodbury

Concerning *Harcourt Horizons: United States History, Grade 5*

- 1) The following textbooks reflect a high degree of historical accuracy:
 - a) Harcourt Horizons—US History

Delia Woodbury

Concerning *Liberty, Equality, Power—A History of the American People*

- 3) These two textbooks are highly inaccurate:
 - a) Harcourt College Publishers— Liberty, Equality, Power—A History of the American People

PUBLISHER’S RESPONSES TO WRITTEN COMMENTS

Harcourt School Publishers to Peggy Venable

Concerning *Harcourt Horizons: United States History, Grade 5*

The publisher understands the petitioner’s concern about wanting more details related to the events of September 11, 2001, the worst act of terrorism in our nation’s history. However, the publisher believes that it has presented the events in a manner that is both factually accurate and age appropriate for young learners, with an emphasis on patriotism and in the context of the entire story of United States history. The text ends with the following paragraph:

“Just as it has done so many times in the past in the defense of liberty, the United States has again pledged to lead the world—this time in a war against terrorism. As the United States works to make our nation and the world more secure, the Constitution will continue to protect our basic freedoms as Americans. Once again the American people are united, working together to make sure that our nation and nations around the world remain strong and free.”

Harcourt School Publishers to Delia Woodbury

Concerning *Harcourt Horizons: United States History, Grade 5*

The publisher wishes to thank the petitioner for her positive comment about the *Harcourt Horizons* program.

Harcourt School Publishers to Delia Woodbury

Concerning *Liberty, Equality, Power—A History of the American People*

The book in question is not a publication of Harcourt School Publishers and is not in any way associated with *Harcourt Horizons*. The book was submitted by The Wadsworth Group/ Thompson Learning.