

Humanities, Level 9 (W236439)

The Submission, Amy Waldman

ISBN-13: 978-1250007575 (Paperback edition)

From the Amazon Best Books of the Month review:

Amy Waldman has performed a rare and dangerous feat in writing an airtight, multi-viewed, highly readable post 9/11 novel. When a Muslim architect wins a blind contest to design a Ground Zero Memorial, a city of 11 million people takes notice. Waldman, a former bureau chief for *The New York Times*, explores a diversity of viewpoints around this fictional event, bringing in politicians, businessmen, journalists, activists, and normal people whose lives—whether by happenstance, choice, or even due to their country of origin—get caught up in the controversy. This moving story also explores the bigger themes of individuals and groups; the purpose of art, commerce, government, and journalism in society; and how people treat one another as they respond to grief and terror. The result is honest, compelling, and breathtaking.

The Submission opens a year-long discussion of the role art, whether visual or written, plays in our lives. What drives people to create art? How does art reflect our lives, our aspirations, our dreams? What message does art hold for us? Why and how does art create controversy?

You should read with a pen in hand and annotate as you come across new and challenging ideas, especially the parts of the novel that leave you morally perplexed. These annotations will provide the basis for intellectual inquiry and class discussion.

