The Attraction of Thanatourism

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The Attraction of Thanatourism
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Introduction/ Hypothesis
From the emotional messages, the memorials, to the graphic images and memories evoked at the 9/11 Memorial, Holocaust Museum, and display of the Enola Gay, dark tourism exhibits a far reaching impact on the human race. It has the energy and influence to bring people together emotionally and unite them in remembrance of a people, place, and event. Dark tourism is an attraction of its own.

In this study we have taken a random sampling of individuals from around the United States centering on their eagerness to visit three places of interest of thanatourism. These places are the 9/11 Memorial, the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C., and the Enola Gay in the annex of the Air and Space Museum near an airport in the D.C. area.

Prior to taking a random sampling our group hypothesized that there is a certain connection and curiosity that accompanies places that rely on thanatourism and that this sampling would show there is an industry in thanatourism.

Ground Zero, Manhattan
Today, Ground Zero stands as one of New York City’s most popular tourist attractions. For Americans, September 11, 2001, means many different things. For those who were old enough to witness the horrific images on the news, 9/11 will forever remain ingrained in their memory as a major event in history. Almost 10 years later, Ground Zero has become a pilgrimage site for many; a place to mourn for the lives that were lost and possibly find come to terms with the event. However, Ground Zero still remains under construction without a proper memorial. Still, that has not stopped tourists from flocking to the site to see for themselves the very spot where terrorists attacked. Following them are the street hawkers selling their bootleg DVDs and knock-off purses. Ground Zero has become not where terrorists attacked. Following them are the street hawkers selling their bootleg DVDs and knock-off purses. Ground Zero has become not where terrorists attacked. 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