

Name:

Date:

Class Period:

**Examine the following five court cases and consider their implications.
(Be Ready to discuss on Friday, September 28, 2018)**

- In the 2010 Roger Corey Bonsant case, Bonsant, then a 17-year-old high school student, was arrested and charged with **criminal defamation** after he was accused of creating a fake Facebook page using a teacher's name and image. While the case is still being decided, this is an example of criminal ramifications that students may face for participating in dubious online acts.

Has this case been resolved? How do you feel about this case?

- Several cases exist in which students who created false Facebook or MySpace pages featuring the names and likenesses of teachers and administrators. On these pages, students published items painting the educators as drug and sex addicts. In some cases, school punishments were reversed by courts, due to the fact that the student activity took place off school grounds and presumably was not sufficiently "disruptive" of the school environment to override the students' right to free speech. The victims depicted in these false Facebook pages could very well have filed charges, however.

How do you feel about these cases?

- In 2011, a [12-year-old Seattle girl](#) was arrested and charged with **cyberstalking** and first-degree **computer trespassing**. Authorities alleged that she stole a former friend's Facebook password, logged into the account and posted explicit content. She was found guilty and sentenced to probation. (The girls' school does not seem to have been involved in this case.)

How often do you think this event occurs?

- Six Nevada middle-schoolers were arrested in January, 2011 for using Facebook to invite other students to take part in "Attack a Teacher Day." They were all arrested and charged with **communicating threats**, as several specific teachers were called out in posts to the Web site.

How do you feel about this case?

- In the [Phoebe Prince case](#), Prince was bullied (both in person and online) by a group of teens at her Massachusetts high school after it was discovered she had a brief relationship with a boy. The boy's girlfriend and a group of her friends systematically tormented Prince in retaliation. The bullying was considered a factor in Prince's January 2010 suicide. All the teens involved were arrested on **manslaughter** charges. They eventually pled guilty to lesser crimes and were sentenced to probation and community service.

Did the students get off too easily with probation and community service?