



SESSION 5

Real-Life Story

Teens Facing Felony Charges for Cyber Bullying Revenge

Three teenagers were arrested yesterday when a video they made of the three of them beating another teen was posted on a popular video-sharing Web site. Angry about what the teen was allegedly posting about them online, the teens lured the other into a garage, spent 20 minutes beating him, recorded the entire event, and posted it online. The three teens are being tried as adults and are facing charges of assault and kidnapping, which could result in prison time.

Wes

He deserved it. Some friends told us that he was posting smack about us online. So we checked it out. It was completely untrue stuff about how we were drinking every weekend and how we should be kicked off the soccer team. We couldn't believe that he would say those things

about us and expect to get away with it. So we told him to meet us in my garage so we could discuss this "misunderstanding."

Jack

So when he walked into the garage, we jumped him. We made sure to let him know that we didn't appreciate that he was posting those lies about us and why he was getting what was coming to him. We also asked him why he did this. But he didn't give us a good enough answer. Something about seeing us drinking at a party, which he knows is a lie. We gave him a reason to remember not to spread lies about us.

Mario

And as a reminder, we recorded the beating. I posted it online to show anyone and everyone what happens if they mess with us. You can

bet that *he* won't be messing with us ever again. But I don't understand why this turned into such a big deal. I can't believe that we were arrested for this. I mean, he was the one who was posting lies about us online. All we did was get back at him. This happens all the time.

Ben

It was 20 minutes of pure torture. They kept hitting and punching and kicking me. I guess I could have denied that I saw the three of them drinking at a couple of parties. But they know the rules, and Coach told us if we got caught drinking or doing drugs, we'd be off the team. Why should they get special treatment?

And instead of people telling me that I did the right thing, I ended up getting a broken eye socket, a broken

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nose, two cracked ribs, and seventeen stitches. Nice, huh?

I can't believe they were dumb enough to record the

whole thing and post it online! As if they wouldn't get caught. And now instead of just being kicked off the team, they are being charged

with crimes and having to go to court. I never thought that could happen. At least they didn't get away with this.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Wes, Jack, and Mario didn't think they did anything wrong?
2. Do you think Ben was partly to blame for what happened? Why or why not?
3. Did it surprise you to learn that Wes, Jack, and Mario were facing charges as adults and prison time for what they did to Ben? Why or why not?
4. Have you seen or heard of any videos like this online? If so, did you watch them? Why? If you didn't watch them, why not?
5. How has reading this story changed how you would or could respond to a video like this in the future?