

* case study #1 bad bob's locker

facts: Bob is a troublemaker. He is always being rude to teachers and acting tough around school. Many of the students and teachers think he might be a drug dealer, although no one is sure. Every other week Vice-Principal Koffi checks Bob's locker and goes through his lunch bag. She never finds any drugs, but she keeps checking.

1. Would the *Charter* apply in this case? Why or why not?
2. Are civil liberties issues involved here?
3. If Bob ended up going to court over the continued searches and argued that his *Charter* rights were being violated, what might the judge say?

Usually with case studies we will give you some ideas in the back of this book. In this case, we'll spare you the agony of waiting and give you the answer to the first question: YES, the *Charter* does apply because, in a case called *R. v. M. (M.R.)* the Supreme Court of Canada decided that, for the purpose of applying the *Charter*, "schools constitute a part of government." For more info on this case, you can look it up on the Supreme Court web site listed in the back of this booklet.

facts: Jeannie just got her nose pierced. And her eyebrow. And her tongue, too. She picked jewelry to match her purple Mohawk. She

* case study #2 face piercing

walks into the school and is told by a teacher to either take her face jewelry out or go home because the school has a new dress code. She is also advised to think about getting a new hairstyle. Consider the following questions:



1. Are civil liberties issues involved here? What other issues are important to think about?
2. Is banning certain forms of dress or personal style a reasonable limitation on Jeannie's rights? Where would you be willing to draw the line?
3. Can employers set dress codes? If so, would that be a civil liberties violation?

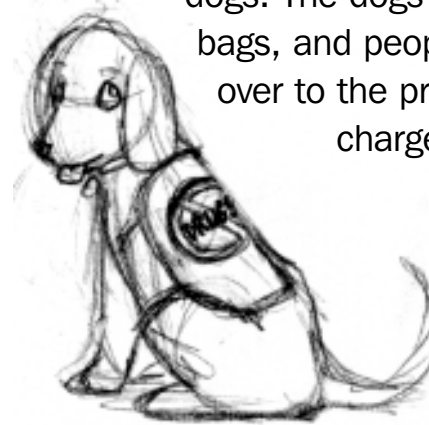
facts: A couple of students from a local school set up a voting booth on the Internet. All work was done from home. Among the questions students can vote on are: Who's the cutest couple? Who is the least popular person? Students can also send in comments. Among the comments posted are: "I think Todd K. sucks snot" and "Tina Y is super ugly". Mr. Peters, the track coach, also tops the list of "the world's worst dictators". The school finds out about the booth and decides to shut it down. Because they can't find the students that posted the comments, they suspend those who admit to creating the booth. Consider the following questions:

*** casestudy #3**
free vote

1. What civil liberties issues are raised here?
2. Can (or should) the school punish students for activities they do outside of school? If so, where would you draw the line? Think about the loco parentis concept.
3. Even though the students who opened the booth did not write the comments, can (or should) they be punished anyway?
4. If the comments were racist, homophobic, or sexist, would you feel differently? Why or why not?

*** casestudy #4**
brutus, the drug-sniffing dog

facts: A local school board has just announced a plan to have police officers patrol schools daily with drug-sniffing dogs. The dogs will be sniffing lockers, gym bags, and people. All drugs will be turned over to the principal, and some criminal charges may be filed against students who get caught. You are a lawyer. Concerned students come to you for advice. Consider the following questions:



1. Are civil liberties being violated? If so, which ones? Provide some details.
2. What type of legal or other action would you advise your clients to take? Estimate their chances of success.

* **case study #5** the cell phone menace

facts: The principal of Ravi's school implements a new policy: no one is ever allowed to bring pagers and cell phones to class. The principal is very serious about eliminating these "noisy menaces"; anyone who violates this new policy will be suspended for a day.

Unfortunately for Ravi, who has been off sick for a week and is not aware of the policy, his cell phone goes off in the middle of Socials. Consider the following questions:



1. Should Ravi be suspended for a day? Why or why not?
2. Do you feel that the punishment is equal to the "crime"?
3. If Ravi and his parents think this decision isn't fair, what actions could they take?

facts: Your school has just announced that it is going to install video cameras in various locations inside and outside the building. The principal says that the cameras are necessary to stop violence, vandalism and the use of drugs in the school.

* **case study #6** the unblinking eye

Consider the following questions:

1. Come up with a Charter argument against installing the cameras.
2. What arguments could you make for installing cameras? Which argument is stronger? Why?