



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

DEFAMATION CASES

VOCABULARY

Directions: Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Defamation** (n.) - The action of damaging the good reputation of someone
2. **Libel** (n.) - A published false statement that is damaging to a person's reputation
3. **Slander** (n.) - The action or crime of making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation.
4. **First Amendment** (n.) - An amendment to the US Constitution that prohibits any law limiting freedom with respect to religion, expression, peaceful assembly, or the right of citizens to petition the government.
5. **Malice** (n.) - The intention or desire to do evil;

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- What is defamation?
- What are the differences between libel and slander? Why does the law draw these distinctions?
- What public good are defamation laws designed to protect? Why?
- Are defamation laws counter to the idea of free speech? Explain.
- How have defamation laws changed over time?
- In your opinion, do defamation laws need to change to address our modern society?
- In your opinion, should there be a different standard for public and private figures in defamation suits? Explain.