**Journalism Journal #5 Topic: Violence in Schools**

* Students will
* FIRST list facts and details about school violence and
* SECOND give opinions.  (may use BYOD or iPads)
* After 8-10 minutes, students will share ideas, double-checking that facts and opinions are not mixed.
* How is this topic newsworthy?
* When would it be considered hard news? or soft news?
* What types of journalistic ethics are involved in reporting school violence as news?

**How dangerous are our schools?**

Schools are not dangerous places. The perception that schools are dangerous is a misperception generated by a series of extreme, high profile cases that are not representative of most schools. In fact, very few serious violent crimes take place at school. From the standpoint of violent crime, students are safer at school than at home. Moreover, schools have become even safer in recent decades, such that the serious violent crime rate at school is less than half what it was in 1994.

Although there are relatively few serious violent crimes at school, there are many less serious crimes and there are numerous discipline problems—primarily disorderly conduct and fights that do not result in injuries—that demand attention. Bullying, teasing, and harassment are common problems that deserve attention in every school, too (Cornell & Mayer, 2010).

Schools are relatively safe, but they are not crime-free and we have an obligation to keep them as safe as possible. To keep schools safe, it is important to recognize what kinds of crimes are likely or unlikely to occur, and to base decisions on facts rather than fears.

<http://curry.virginia.edu/research/projects/violence-in-schools/school-violence-myths>

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/11/us/school-shootings-cnn-number/>

Here are the 15 Newtown-like incidents that have occurred between the Sandy Hook massacre and the latest shooting in Oregon:

1. January 10, 2013 -- Taft Union High School in Taft, California: A 16-year-old student opened fire in class. He was targeting two classmates who he felt had bullied him, law enforcement said. One student was injured. The shooter was placed into custody after a teacher and campus supervisor persuaded the student to put down his firearm.

[Read: California sheriff: Youth who shot classmate felt he'd been bullied](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/01/10/us/california-school-shooting/)

2. January 15, 2013 -- Stevens Institute of Business and Arts in St. Louis, Missouri: A part-time student shot and injured a school employee then apparently shot himself, according to St. Louis [police](http://d.7769domain.com/r/rd.html?#http%3A%2F%2F7769domain.com%2FAd%2FGoIEx%2FUWJCTWg2MUJaSGJ6Y0VoV1NGOWhXWDJ1SGcyU1JkWmF6QzJhSGc0SWp6UzFta1o1Nm1DSVBNZE11NHUzMXVISDljWDN3N2V2OUJoQzQxZVR2Zzk1WjQyV1RSOTRmOS9lZFRjN1VxallWczBEdW5PTGFnWm9GNFc2bDJKUWRRaXBiYkdXQ255WkptaDMrN3NGckpFQ2w4NFVUZW9CS3NOa0pxd28rZHFhT1dJPQ2).

[Read: Police say student suspected of shooting college employee](http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2013/01/15/suspect-in-custody-after-shooting-at-business-college-police-say/)

3. January 31, 2013 -- Price Middle School in Atlanta, Georgia: A 14-year-old was shot in the head outside his school, police said. His mother told CNN affiliate WSB-TV that he was taken to the hospital. Atlanta Public Schools announced that another student had been taken into custody after the 1:50 p.m. shooting.

[Read: Student shot, wounded at Atlanta school](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/01/31/us/georgia-student-shot/)

4. April 12, 2013 -- New River Community College in Christianburg, Virginia: An 18-year-old student drove to the school's campus inside a mall and began shooting at 1:55 p.m. on a Friday, police said. He wounded two women.

[Read: Student shot 2 before being subdued, police say](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/04/12/us/virginia-community-college-shooting/)

5. June 7, 2013 -- [Santa](http://d.7769domain.com/r/rd.html?#http%3A%2F%2F7769domain.com%2FAd%2FGoIEx%2FazlMZTdNOHhLcTdrazRlWlp6WC9WYWc3bkI0TUhhQXNqbUJlK25OM3kvd3NWTExqZXBRbEc5U3B4dVU2dWhIalJ5dTBoUy8yZWplcHVpeW9Sc3RjR0tOQVFLYUFubzk3dkM0NjJEZlJtRHFsRmJCcWJ0MEJaWHFnSnpDYS9GV3Y0OXl4SDZvTFlYWlhpMWhnamtRcWtYNnE3cjJCM2tFOEZWbDU4dEJ3eWtvPQ2) Monica College in Santa Monica, California: A gunman killed four people during a rampage that began at a home near the college campus, police said. He opened fire in the residence where police discovered two bodies, then the gunman shot at a passing [car](http://d.7769domain.com/r/rd.html?#http%3A%2F%2F7769domain.com%2FAd%2FGoIEx%2FYUR1QWV3NDRsMGNnNmlFYWkzZWM4eld1Mk9kZkFOZU1UYmRGNE1uVE1qTVQ1RWhLMGVFNDZYMExzVFVrbkhXYTNkQWViV2tGTEZoTG5WdXNlNDEra0s4ZG1RLzJ1OTRaYUZsWDhKa1Fvd3A2VExxRVRSTjNaRGhWdTNxeEhVMkY0dEE0c09XWXBySXZlZnE5VVlxbHV3PT01) and carjacked another. The gunman forced the driver to drive onto the campus and shot two people in a passing vehicle, police said. Another victim was shot outside the campus library, authorities said. The gunman was killed by authorities.

[Read: 5 dead in California shooting](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/07/us/california-college-gunman/)

6. August 20, 2013 -- Ronald E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy, in Decatur, Georgia: A gunman fired shots and barricaded himself inside the elementary school. Antoinette Tuff, who worked in the front office, was hailed as a hero for engaging suspect Michael Brandon Hill. She managed to talk him into into giving up, and no one was injured, police said.

[Read: 'True hero' for handling Georgia gunman](http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/21/us/georgia-school-gunshots/)

7. August 30, 2013 -- Carver High School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina: A student injured another during a shooting that occurred at 2:45 p.m. during a planned fire drill, CNN affiliate WXII reported.

[Read: Police probe school shooting](http://www.wxii12.com/news/local-news/piedmont/ws-police-probe-shooting-at-carver-high-school/21719994#%21XzpQV)

8. October 21, 2013 -- Sparks Middle School in Sparks, Nevada: A 12-year-old opened fire with a handgun he took from his parents, police say. Jose Reyes injured two students and killed Mike Landsberry, a teacher and Afghanistan war veteran, authorities said. Reyes killed himself.

[Read: Students injured, teacher killed at middle school](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/21/justice/nevada-middle-school-shooting/)

9. December 13, 2013 -- Arapahoe High School in Centennial, Colorado: Karl Halverson Pierson opened fire on a Friday inside his suburban Denver high school, police said. The 18-year-old allegedly shot Claire Davis, a 17-year-old senior, [who later died at a hospital](http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/21/us/colorado-arapahoe-shooting-death/). Law enforcement said that Pierson apparently wanted revenge against a faculty member because of a "confrontation or disagreement."

[Read: Teen opens fire at Colorado high school, police say](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/12/13/us/colorado-school-shooting/)

10. January 9, 2014 -- Liberty Technology Magnet High School in Jackson, Tennessee: A 16-year-old student shot

a classmate in the leg as classes were being dismissed for the day, police said, according to CNN affiliate WBBJ. The student was treated for his gunshot wound, WBBJ said.

[Read: Victim shot as school was dismissed for day, authorities say](http://www.wbbjtv.com/news/local/Police-Investigate-Motive-of-Liberty-Tech-Shooting-239506191.html)

11. January 14, 2014 -- Berrendo Middle School in Roswell, New Mexico: A 12-year-old boy walked into the school gym, pulled a shotgun out of a bag and fired at students waiting for the school day to begin, authorities said. The boy wounded two.

[Read: Boy opens fire in gym, authorities say](http://edition.cnn.com/2014/01/14/justice/new-mexico-school-shooting/)

12. January 21, 2014 -- Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana: Student Cody M. Cousins, 23, opened fire in the basement of the Electrical Engineering Building, [according to the university](http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2014/Q1/purdue-police-confirm-1-fatality,-1-in-custody-following-campus-shooting.html). Cousins allegedly killed Andrew F. Boldt, the school said, and both were listed as seniors.

The school's police chief said that Cousins left the building right after the shooting, and a city police officer arrested him. Cousins was "booked on a preliminary charge of murder," Purdue Police Chief John Cox said.

[Read: Student surrenders after killing another student, police say](http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/21/justice/purdue-shooting-report/)

13. January 24, 2014 -- South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina: A manhunt kicked off after a student Brandon Robinson, 20, was shot to death at the school, authorities said.

"He was a very nice young man," South Carolina State University President Thomas Elzey said. "And it hurts. It hurts us all."

Police arrested Justin Bernard Singleton, 19, and charged him with Robinson's killing, according to a statement from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

[Read: Men argued before shooting, police said](http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/25/us/sc-state-shooting/)

14. May 23, 2014 -- University of California, Santa Barbara in Isla Vista, California: Elliot Rodger, 22, stabbed to death three people in his apartment, police said. Then Rodger fired into a deli and killed a young man inside the shop and shot to death two sorority sisters.

Cheng Yuan Hong, 20; George Chen, 19; Weihan Wang, 20; Katherine Cooper, 22; Veronika Weiss, 19; and Christopher Michaels-Martinez, 20, lost their lives. Others were injured.

Rodger committed suicide, [leaving behind a long, hateful essay](http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/25/justice/california-shooting-revelations/).

[Read: Timeline to 'retribution': Isla Vista killings planned for years](http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/26/justice/california-elliot-rodger-timeline/)

15. June 5, 2014 -- Seattle Pacific University in Seattle, Washington: A 26-year-old man who was not a student at the school was tackled by a student security guard after he killed one person and wounded two others, police said.

Once the suspect was on the ground, other students jumped on top of him, according to authorities.

Police told CNN affiliate KIRO that Aaron Ybarra was fascinated with school shootings and told investigators he had visited Colorado's Columbine High School where two students killed 12 students and a teacher in 1999.

[Read: Alleged school shooter interested in school shootings, police say](http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/06/justice/seattle-campus-shooting/)