Student Review for Student Press Law: Libel Law

Libel is publication of a false statement of *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* that seriously *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* someone’s reputation.

Printed defamation is *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* (TV broadcasts usually qualify as libel too.)

Spoken defamation is *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.

First thing person must show is that the libelous statement has been *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

Publication is broadly defined, and it can occur almost anywhere. Name three places other than an article in which libel could appear:

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•

•

True or False:

You are responsible for published statements or material created by others – even if it comes from a third party.

Publication of a false statement of act that seriously harms \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reputation.

In addition to naming a person, you can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the person by description.

If no “identification” of the individual is made, then a person cannot successfully sue for *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is an absolute defense to a libel claim.

Statements of “pure” *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* cannot be libelous.

A mix of “fact” and “opinion” *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* be libelous.

The person suing for libel must show the false statement caused serious harm to their *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.

Red flag statements include (list a few)

•

•

•

Review:

Statement

• must be published

• *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  an individual

• is *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

• asserts a *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

• causes *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

In order to successfully sue for libel all the above criteria from must be met and …

The person suing for libel must show that the *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  acted *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*.

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Name some ways a reporter ensures they are acting reasonably.

• *trustworthy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

• *take accurate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

• keep your *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

• *rigorous in language choice*

• *talk to all sides*

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Never publish a story if YOU DOUBT ITS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Report what you know and explain to readers how you know it.