

# Bullying and depression

Law



The paper "Bullying and Depression" is an outstanding example of a law essay.

Bullying and depression are two of the leading causes of school shootings. Tragedies like Columbine could have been prevented. I think the classification is a bit murkier today than in 1999. With today's emphasis on bullying and bullying prevention and zero tolerance in schools, there may have been a different outcome today to this tragedy, if there were some form of anti-bullying education, awareness, or school policies implemented at Columbine and grammar school, to prevent Harris and Klebold from reaching the boiling point. That being said, the actions they chose to respond to their bullying with are far beyond any rationale in response to bullying. Obviously, many factors beyond mere bullying were involved in their decision to open fire on a school, taking 13 lives, as well as their own. Seeing the amount of carnage, the planned attack, amount of detail and thought and pre-planning they put into the attack, I would recommend the harshest response possible to their crimes, utilizing a transfer, waiver, or certification to adult criminal court for each of the two defendants. They must face the consequences of their decisions and be held accountable for the actions that require them to be tried as an adult. Once in adult criminal court, they would likely be charged with first-degree murder, with malice aforethought, as there was intent to plan and carry out the murders, they did carefully plan and executed by both defendants. There was men's rea (guilty mind) and actus reus (guilty act).

If convicted, sentencing should be in line with adult criminal standards, with some mitigation regarding the fact they were bullied throughout their school years, and the schools obviously did not address it and allowed it to fester

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on. The bullying happened under their watch, for an extended period of years. The defence will surely bring on expert testimony about their state of mind and perhaps even temporary insanity. But with the degree of planning and detail that went into it, that argument would be tenuous at best.

Bullying prevention, education, and stricter school guidelines will hopefully prevent events like Columbine from happening in the future. Of course, there are some who will see all fault with the school. Society, and the system, and see the defendants as pure victims of constant bullying and support for such bullying by the educational institutions they attended.