

Assault or Harassment Exercise

Session Materials

Read each of these scenarios and determine whether the crime of Assault or Harassment is the best fit. For an additional challenge, underline the elements of the crime in each scenario, and if Assault is your choice, specify which degree of Assault is appropriate.

1. Eric Douglas is walking into a 7-11 for some slim-jims and a big gulp. As he goes through the door, he accidentally bumps into Josh Carter. Carter tells Douglas to watch where he is going. Douglas says he is sorry. Carter says, "You sure are sorry. After I get me my 99-cent hot dog, I'm coming out to bust a cap in your punk ass!" Douglas believes Carter and is afraid, so he calls 911.
 - a. Harassment
 - b. Assault

2. Two neighbors, Joe and Sally, are arguing because Sally's dog barks all day long. Joe tells Sally that he is going to go get his gun and shoot the dog. Sally believes he is serious and calls the cops.
 - a. Harassment
 - b. Assault

3. Eric Douglas is walking into a 7-11 for some slim-jims and a big gulp. As he goes through the door, he accidentally bumps into Josh Carter. Carter tells Douglas to watch where he is going. Douglas says he is sorry. Carter suddenly raises his fist to punch Douglas. Douglas backed away with his hands raised to protect himself. Carter's fist never makes contact with Douglas. Douglas runs away, spilling his big gulp. Douglas calls 911 when he gets home.
 - a. Harassment
 - b. Assault

4. Joe walks into the local quickie mart. He tries to buy some beer, but the clerk refuses to sell to him because he appears intoxicated. Joe gets mad and tells the clerk, "I'm gonna' blow your head off!" Joe leaves the store. The clerk calls 911.
 - a. Harassment
 - b. Assault

5. Johnny Badguy goes into the mall to get some new kicks. The clerk says that he is out of Badguy's size. Johnny Badguy gets angry, stands up, walks toward the clerk while clenching his fists, and tells the clerk, "I'm going to beat your ass!" The clerk is scared, screams, and cowers behind the counter as Johnny Badguy lunges across the counter swinging his fist within inches of the clerk. Another customer calls 911 to help the clerk.
 - a. Harassment
 - b. Assault



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6. Charlie approaches the Metro bus at the corner of Range Road and Woodshed Blvd. Fred gets in line in front of Charlie. Charlie feels like Fred cut in line in front of him and gets upset. Charlie taps Fred on the shoulder and asks him not to cut in line. Fred tells Charlie to take a hike and to mind his own business or he'll be sorry. Charlie starts to reply, but Fred turns on him, cocks his right fist back, and starts to throw a punch at Charlie. Charlie puts his hands up to protect himself as he ducks and backs away. Fred drops his fist without making contact and smirks at him and says, "That's what I thought, chicken!" Fred gets on the bus and leaves. Charlie stays and calls 911. For what crime can Fred be arrested?
 - a. Harassment
 - b. Assault

7. Johnny Badguy goes into the mall to buy some shoes. The store clerk tells him that they are out of his size. Johnny Badguy gets pissed off and starts to leave, but at the door he turns and yells at the clerk, "I'm gonna' blow your head off." The clerk is afraid because he knows Badguy from high school and knows that he has been violent in the past. The clerk calls 911. For what crime can Badguy be arrested?
 - a. Harassment
 - b. Assault

8. Eric Douglas walks into the 7-11 to buy his Big Gulp. On the way in, he accidentally bumps into Josh Carter. Carter gets instantly pissed off and yells, "When you come back outside, I'm gonna' beat your ass!" Douglas goes inside the store and asks the clerk to call 911. He waits inside for the police to arrive. For what crime can Carter be arrested?
 - a. Harassment
 - b. Assault

