

SAGE Lecture Spark

February 26, 2019

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Jussie Smollett Arrested and Charged For Alleged Hate Crime Publicity Stunt

- In a turn of events, Jussie Smollett, the alleged victim of a race based homophobic hate crime was arrested and charged with a felony for filing a false police report.
- The two brothers who were initially identified by the Chicago Police Department as suspects in the attack claim that Smollett orchestrated the attack in an attempt to further his career.
- Smollett is currently out on bail awaiting his next hearing date, which is due to take place in mid-March.
- Under Illinois code, Smollett can face up to three years in prison if convicted.
- Do you believe that Jussie Smollett is guilty?

Key Concepts

- What repercussions does filing a false report have?
 - They can do real harm to every legitimate victim. Victims are already hesitant to come forward. This case could potentially discourage real victims from coming forward.
 - They also waste law enforcement resources that could be utilized to investigate real crimes and help real victims.
- Do you think that Jussie Smollett's case will deter future victims of hate crimes from coming forward?

Assessment

- **Writing:** Will Jussie Smollett's case impact future victims of hate crimes?
- **Debate:** Jussie Smollett is guilty of all charges.
- **Poll:** Do you believe that the charges against Jussie Smollett are appropriate?
- **Short Answer:** Why is filing a false police report considered a crime?