

LECTURE QUESTIONS (DEFAMATION)

1. Understand the evolution of communication as we described and varying levels of egalitarianism. Additionally, understand how mass forms of communication make the prospect of defamation more critical.
2. What's the difference between slander and libel?
3. Know the basic ways in which you can defame someone or something (as in the case of a trade).
4. In libel cases, who is the burden of proof on and what must you be able to prove?
5. What is the only absolute defense to claims of defamation?
6. What is the basic legal rationale for applying the actual malice standard to public figures as well as public officials?
 - a. Define permanent and vortex public figures.
 - b. Know the AP v. Walker case (1967)
7. What are the traditional defenses to accusations of libel?
 - a. Truth
 - b. Privilege
 - i. absolute
 - ii. qualified
 - c. Opinion
 - d. Fair Comment
 - e. Neutral Reportage
8. Know briefly what we said in class regarding the following:
 - a. retractions
 - b. statute of limitations
9. Know the various damages that may arise in a libel case:
 - a. actual
 - b. compensatory
 - c. punitive