1. Divide students into groups of four
2. Distribute copy of first amendment and have students define/determine what type of speech is protected (slander, libel, obscene etc.)
3. Lead students in discussion if HATE speech is protected by the first amendment (read current local laws on punishment for hate speech/crimes)
4. Have students brain storm a public policy explaining what constitutes a hate crime/speech. Formulate a policy definition and write on butcher paper
5. Distribute Washington Post Article
6. Read the Washington Post Article: A black principal, four white teens and the senior prank that became a hate crime.
7. Assign Students FOR or AGAINST and use their stated public policy to defend their position
8. Have groups debate each other practicing CIVILITY with the goal of reaching a conclusion on whether the parents have a valid right to prosecute and if so to what extent should the punishment be