Fact Pattern

William Jennings Bryan Middle School is not unlike any other middle school in the country. The school very recently added new science laboratories to its physical plant. These new labs were fully stocked with brand-new computers, new lab benches, and fully supplied chemical cabinets. On the night of November 21, 2001, at approximately 12:30 A.M. the new chemistry lab on the first floor of the building was broken into. One of the large windows was broken, and various pieces of laboratory glassware were shattered. All of the computers in the room were also destroyed. In addition to this, the chemical cabinet was broken into and several highly corrosive chemicals were removed. These chemicals were then spread throughout the room, destroying the walls, floor, and lab benches in the room. Additionally, the chemical made its way into the foundation of the school, necessitating massive repairs to the structure. Neighbors heard the commotion and phoned the police. Upon arrival, officers discovered no persons on the premises but detected the odor of chemicals. HAZMAT teams were called in order to decontaminate the site. Upon investigation after decontamination, police discovered a baseball bat lying outside of the broken window along with a ripped piece of flannel clothing on one of the broken panes of window. As a result of this act of vandalism, the school was forced to rent portable classrooms along with a special portable chemistry laboratory. The town also had to replace large portions of the school's foundation. As a result of this aspect of the vandalism, classes were not held for one week due to the precarious state of the school's foundation. On November 28, the first day of classes after the vandalism, the principal of William Jennings Bryan Middle School, Lee Meng, began

interviewing students who had class in the chemistry lab. In addition, the city of Adhock, where William Jennings Bryan Middle School is located, offered a $10,000 reward to anyone offering any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandal or vandals. On November 28, Taylor Conroy, a student, went to see Meng. After a thirty-five minute closed-door meeting, the police were called, and Sydney Briggs, also a student, was arrested for vandalizing the chemistry laboratory.