# Prank or Felony Presentation

1. The slideshow can be presented live to the class. Note that there are multiple points in the presentation designed to elicit input and discussion from the students. The “What Could Go Wrong” slides are intended to get students in the habit of slowing down and predicting consequences to real-life actions – we can all only hope that this will actually become a habit with them.
2. Assign viewing the presentation online, then writing up answers to the ten questions from the handout, and/or completing the Excel spreadsheet assignment. This option works well as an extra-credit assignment.

# Research Paper Topics

The presentation is a good springboard to interesting research topics:

“Collateral Consequences of Felony Convictions,” “Disenfranchisement of Felons,” “Walk in My Shoes: I Can’t Get a Job Because I was In Jail,” “Abolish Lifetime Bans for Ex-Felons: Pros and Cons,” “Should Violent Felons Receive Organ Transplants?” “Constitutional Rights of American Citizens,” “Plead Guilty or Go to Trial: The Consequences,” “Don’t Know What You’ve Got Till It’s Gone: Lost Rights of a Criminal Conviction,” “Rights and Responsibilities in Police Stops,” “Criminal Consequences of Cyberbullying.”

## Excel spreadsheet assignment: Calculating Civil, Criminal, and Attorney Costs of Pranks Gone Wrong:

Calculate the costs for these two pranks:

* True Story: Carload of teenagers re-enacts a popular YouTube video, ordering food at the window, then yelling "Fire in the hole" and throwing creamed spinach at clerk working at drive-through. Unfortunately for everyone, the spinach was at least 180 degrees hot and seriously burned the clerk, who will require plastic surgery.
* True Story: Teens toss a frozen turkey out of a moving car on a highway as a prank.

First, [Read about damages under Texas law.](http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/CP/htm/CP.41.htm#41.001)  Create an Excel spreadsheet . Create a line for each type of potential damage as outlined in the Texas statute – e.g., out-of-pocket damages, medical expenses, mental pain and anguish, punitive damages, etc. Add lines for criminal fines and fees and court costs. For attorney costs, create a cell for attorney hours and a cell that multiplies the number of hours by $200. Create a column for each of the above pranks. Be prepared to defend your estimates. Create sub-totals and final totals.

# Resources and Further Reading:

Students are likely to come up with legal questions during the presentation. They can be encouraged to search online at [Texas Legislature Online](http://www.legis.state.tx.us/) to find answers in Texas statutes.

Texas Attorney General Juvenile Justice: <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/teens/crime/index.shtml>

Collateral Consequences of Criminal Charges: <http://www2.law.columbia.edu/fourcs/>

Texas Attorney General Penal Code Offenses by Punishment Range: <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/pdfs/penalcode.pdf>

Texas Attorney General Juvenile Justice Handbook: <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/pdfs/juvenile_justice.pdf>

Texas case where student pled to a felony and later lost his job because he couldn’t be licensed: <http://law.justia.com/cases/texas/fourteenth-court-of-appeals/2009/85986.html>