

# JOHNNY CADE



Description: 17-year old greaser

Poor, abused at home

Slightly built

Brown eyes, tan skin

Criminal Records: NOTHING

Convicted Crime: Homicide

# BOB SHELDON



Description: Soc

Wealthy

Good-looking

Drinking Problem

Criminal Records: NOTHING

Victim of Murder

Corado, Juliana

Period 5

Think-Like Expert: Lawyer

### Opening Statement for Court Case

Thank you for your attention in this matter. Ladies and gentlemen, there is a difference between self-defense and retribution. There is a difference between self-defense and over-reaction. Most of all, there is a difference between self-defense and murder.

Let's go back to that night, Ponyboy had run away because of his incident that occurred with Darry. To calm down, he and Johnny went to the park. That's when the Socs showed up. Remind you ladies and gentlemen, the Socs claimed to be drunk. Majority of the time, intoxicated teenagers don't know what they're doing.

They get out of the car, walked towards Pony and Jonny, and that's when things started to get out of hand. One Soc grabbed Pony and stuck his face in the fountain. Another was holding Johnny down. Everything happened so quickly, next thing you know, Bob's cold dead body is lying on the floor. Johnny had killed him. Bob wasn't even attacking him; he had the right to harm him. Even if Bob had threatened him, that doesn't give Johnny the right to fight. In this case, self-defense was not accountable for.

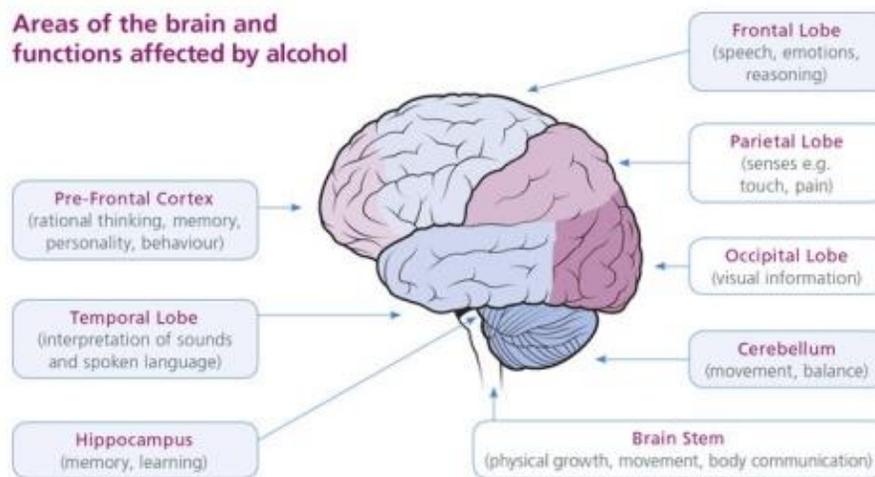
### Presenting Evidence for Prosecutors

Johnny stated that his actions towards Bob Sheldon were an act of self-defense. In reality, Johnny said, "I had to. They were drowning you, Pony. They might have killed you. And they had a blade... they were gonna beat me up...." (Hinton 57). So, what he's saying was that he killed Bob Sheldon because Bob Sheldon was "drowning" Ponyboy, but actually it was not Bob who was drowning Ponyboy. David, another Soc, was the person who was drowning Ponyboy. As Bob clearly commanded, "you could use a bath, greaser. And a good working over. And we've got all night to do it. Give the kid a bath, David." (55). So, the reason for murdering Bob is not justified because Bob did not attempt to kill Ponyboy, it was David. Why did Johnny say he killed Bob because Bob was drowning Ponyboy, when it was David who was drowning Ponyboy? Why didn't he attack David?

Johnny says the reason for killing Bob was self-defense. In order for it to be self-defense, Johnny must show that Bob threatened him with physical harm. There is nowhere, where Johnny says that Bob caused any harm to him or threatened any harm to him. He did mention the Socs had a blade, but it doesn't say that they were going to use it. He also must show that the harm was so dangerous, that it actually required him to use force. There is no evidence stating that Bob inflicted harm upon Johnny or even touched him. Because Johnny killed Bob, he must show that Bob was about to inflict death or serious harm to him. Also, **was killing Bob necessary? Who was Johnny's aggressor? Was his belief of physical harm reasonable?** According to the law, Johnny can't claim self-defense if he was aiding a criminal or intervening in an illegal fight. Therefore, there isn't any evidence proving that Johnny's "self-defense" isn't justified for killing Bob.

Also, the Socs were drunk. The effects alcohol has on teenagers affects how a teenager thinks. According to a study made in the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Research Institute in Australia, alcohol affects many regions in your brain. Two of those regions are the Pre-frontal Cortex and the Frontal Lobe. The effects alcohol has on the Pre-frontal Cortex affects how you reasonably think, how you behave, and how you act. The effects alcohol has on the Frontal Lobe affects how you feel, how you talk, and how you use common sense. This harms the ability to make decisions and how you reason. This also can cause taking greater risks and doing passionate things that you may regret. So, The Socs didn't know what they were doing or think logically about jumping Ponyboy and Johnny. They didn't intend or have a reason to try to drown Ponyboy. They were drunk and obviously not thinking rationally based on the

effects alcohol has on teenagers. Bob was under the influence of alcohol so he shouldn't be accountable for the actions he was or did make. So, why would Johnny stab Bob if he knew that Bob didn't know what was going on? Under the influences of alcohol, why would he confront Bob and kill Bob instead of calming him down? Or running away? So, did Johnny kill Bob in revenge for Bob beating him up?



#### **Alcohol causes teens to make bad decisions.**

The prefrontal cortex, involved in planning and decision-making, does not completely mature until after the teen years. Alcohol can harm a teen's ability to reason and weigh options.

#### **Alcohol causes teens to develop a tolerance for alcohol and drink more.**

When adolescents drink on multiple occasions, their brains develop a tolerance to alcohol, requiring more alcohol to obtain the same effects as previously. This encourages higher levels of use, potentially leading to alcohol abuse and dependence.

#### **Alcohol causes teens to take greater risks.**

Connections between the prefrontal cortex and ventral striatum, a part of the brain's reward system, are important in regulating impulsive behavior and are still maturing during adolescence. Alcohol can affect those connections, making teens more likely to do impulsive things they may regret.

#### **Alcohol causes teens to forget and lose memory.**

The hippocampus, or the area in the brain that stores memory, is still maturing during adolescence. Research shows that even small amounts of alcohol can make teens less likely to recall something they learned earlier or remember what they did while drinking.

### Closing Arguments for Court Case

Overall, being intoxicated can change one's mind on what is good and bad. Being a Soc is different because they don't know what is wrong because they never got in trouble at the time. The Socs were intoxicated causing them to think differently. During the phase of being intoxicated causes the brain to function differently. The brain changes the decision for you because the human body doesn't have 100% control of the body while being intoxicated. So, the Socs were the victims Bob's death.

Yeganyan, Alex

April 7, 2015

Period 5

### **Script: Opening Statement**

Greetings, my fellow citizens. Today we are here to discuss and find out what actually happened on the night of Bob's murder. As we know, Ponyboy and Johnny were heading to the park to take a break from all the drama between them and their family. After getting to the park, Ponyboy and Johnny saw a group of Socs approaching them that were looking for a fight. Johnny and Ponyboy were thinking about running, but it came too late as the Socs came closer and closer. After a Soc made fun of a greaser gang and Ponyboy replied, a fight began. Later that night after seeing Bob, the Socs leader dead, the others fled. Today my group of defense lawyers and I will provide evidence to prove you guys why the murder of Bob was done in an act of self-defense by Johnny.

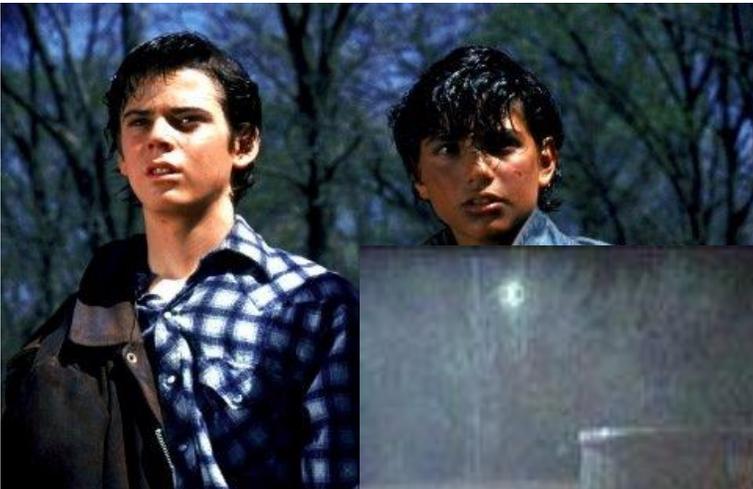
## **Self-Defense Overview**

- As a general rule self-defense only justifies the use of force when it is used in response to an immediate threat.
- The threat can be verbal and/or physical.
- A homicide is considered justifiable when it is committed without malice or criminal intent for the purpose of self-defense or the defense of others.
- When a person reasonably believes they are in imminent danger of losing their life or suffering substantial bodily injury at the hands of someone else and their defense results in death, it is considered self-defense.
- In both circumstances when the self-defense of someone else recruits, there should be a special relationship between the defender and the person being defended.
- The original laws regarding self-defense required people claiming self-defense to first make an attempt to avoid violence before using physical force.
- If a person uses force to defend him or herself from the perceived threat, the situation is known as imperfect self-defense.
- Imperfect self-defense does not excuse the person from committing a crime; it just lessens his/her punishments.
- A person can only employ as much force as required to remove the threat.

## Script/Defense

Johnny and Ponyboy were as close as blood brothers, so it was fine for Johnny to defend Ponyboy. The opportunity to retreat for Johnny arose, but he wasn't going to leave his friend by himself to get killed by the Socs. Johnny was being threatened and the Socs didn't stop. He had the right to kill Bob because he was the leader. If he killed the Soc hurting Ponyboy, Bob would send more after Johnny. Also, killing Bob would scare off the other Socs, which it did. In conclusion, the Socs were looking for a fight.

## Ponyboy, Johnny, Bob



Evidence –

“Want to make a run for it?” “It’s too late now, here they come” (Hinton 42).

- Ponyboy and Johnny, BEFORE, pulling out a switch blade, looked for an opportunity to retreat, but couldn’t find one.

“We backed against the fountain and the Socs surrounded us” (43).

- Johnny and Ponyboy weren’t looking for a fight. They backed up, but the Socs surrounded them and began to get more violent.

“Randy swore at us and they stepped in closer. Bob was eyeing Johnny” (43).

- The Socs, being the aggressor, were about to inflict death or bodily harm to both Johnny and Ponyboy. Also, keep in mind that the Socs were “pickle reeling” meaning they were drunk and in most cases when an aggressor is drunk and pissed off, the future events could end up with the victim dead. Therefore, Johnny’s last resort was to protect Ponyboy and himself with a switchblade hidden in his back pocket.

“I’m drowning, I though, they’ve gotten too far...” (44).

- Johnny had to kill Bob out of self-defense for his “brother” Ponyboy because they had a special connection. Johnny knew it was either Ponyboy or Bob, the guy giving out all the orders. The switchblade prevented the death of Ponyboy who wasn’t the aggressor, but the victim. He did it for fear of his own lifer as well because Johnny has gotten through past circumstance where he was beaten to death and the same guy who did it was eyeing Johnny once again. If you looked at Johnny’s past, you would find out that he’d be the last person in a gang who would murder another human being.

Script- Closing Arguments

We know that Bob Sheldon was killed by Johnny Cade. We know that Bob was drunk and looking for a fight when he confronted Ponyboy Curtis and Johnny along with his 4 other friends, which meant that the two boys were endangered from the start. We know that the murder weapon was a knife, and upon interrogating Ponyboy on page 31, we know that Johnny is the most law-abiding of the whole gang, yet he carries a six-inch switch blade with him. The reason for this is because he was attacked by Bob before. This is why Johnny killed Bob for no reason other than self-defense. The definition of self-defense is the use of force to protect oneself or members of the family from bodily harm from Bob, since that was exactly what happened the last time they met. It was probably quite likely that Bob or his gang would inflict serious harm upon Johnny and Ponyboy, which meant that Johnny acted to save his own life and the life of Ponyboy. We also know that Johnny does not have any murderous tendencies from the interrogation from Ponyboy on page 54, when he says that Johnny is quiet, soft-spoken, and wouldn't hurt a living thing on purpose. He comes from an abusive home, and he is not the type that would purposely go around looking for trouble, but rather kind that would avoid it. This evidence leads me to the conclusion that Johnny should be charged as not guilty, and his course of action should be classed as an act of self-defense.