

# Eyewitness Testimony at the Hullabaloo Dorm

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**Abstract:** This paper will be about the vandalism at the Hullabaloo dorms that occurred on what was the night of Friday the 17th to the early morning of Saturday the 18th. Everyone that lives at the Hullabaloo dorms was sent a message on the morning of Saturday the 18th about a lot of vandalism that had occurred either the night before or that day. People were in rage to find out that if no one came forward they would all be splitting the price of what it cost to repair everything. They all had a lot to say about it and I figured I would try and get to the bottom of it in hopes of also not having to pay for an incident that I did not cause. Who vandalized the Hullabaloo dorm? Each floor has a separate GroupMe with their RA and to start my eyewitness testimony research I asked to read through everyone's chat to see if anyone had a conspiracy theory or saw/heard anything when the incident took place. From what I read no one had actually seen what happened. A few people said they heard some noise but didn't bother to see what was going on. I would've loved to talk to the police that came the morning of the 18th, but that was unfortunately not possible.

**Keywords:** *Eyewitness, Hullabaloo, Dorm*

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Vandalism is a huge problem that occurs very often in schools. Many educators and teachers see this major recurring problem every couple of months (Mayor 1983). Texas &M had an occurrence of vandalism recently in the Hullabaloo Dorms. However, A&M had a hard time with deciding the punishment for vandalism. They were going to punish everyone because the mischief-maker would not reveal himself/herself. In fact, a substantial portion of the victims of vandalism failed to report its occurrence, in the apparently accurate belief that little will follow from their act of reporting- only an estimated 3% to 4% of vandalistic acts lead to prosecution (Goldstein 1996).

## Materials and Methods

I used GroupMe as my main material in this research. GroupMe provided me with pictures of all the destruction and many opinions on the situation from residents. My main method of data collection was through

eyewitness testimony. I went around the Hullabaloo dorm and began going down the halls asking residents if they had seen, heard, or had any theories on what might've happened.

## Results

None of the residents really knew what the cause was. However, it was said that possible nonresidents from Northgate came on the night of the 17th and were drunk and just began to destroy things as a way of “having fun” in their opinions. Residents here said that it wouldn’t make sense for anyone that lives here to destroy anything because a contract had been signed at the beginning of the year explaining that any destruction would result in a split bill to all

residents. However, when I talked to one specific RA they told me that looking at lobby cameras between the time of 1 am and 3 am on Saturday the 18th, they were able to put a name to who it was because they questioned the person and they admitted to the destruction. I am not at liberty to share the name of that resident. However, the Hullabaloo residents are at peace to know that they will not be getting charged for that person’s mistake.

## **Discussion**

This research was interesting because it makes you realize how useful eyewitness testimony is. The RA mentioned that it was because of a GroupMe discussion that they checked the lobby cameras and found out who did it. Cameras are not allowed in the hallways so no one thought to pull up lobby footage. One guy mentioned getting home at 2:30 to 3 am on Saturday and he said the destruction had already occurred. Another person said they got home at 12 am and no destruction had occurred. These testimonies helped narrow the time span of who to question that entered the lobby in between those times and saved residents from being billed for something that they did not cause.

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