Homework #4 **Understanding School Resource Officers in Schools**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Students, for this exercise, I have made things a bit easier and have identified certain pages within a report for you to retrieve answers to key questions. The report itself is entitled **Education Under Arrest: The Case Against Police in Schools** and can be found in the Week 2-6 folder under Course Materials. **Homework is due to be submitted as a Blackboard assignment by 11:59pm on Tuesday 3/9**.

Additional Note: I am well aware there are some students who believe police are necessary for safety in schools and that is perfectly fine. But, this exercise is designed to expose you to findings of a relatively well-formed report that should help expand your own understanding of key points in the debate. Where possible, I invite you to share your own positions on whether school safety officers are needed in schools in your responses, but only after answering the questions according to information/statistics provided in the report. In other words, answer each question first before sharing your own opinions, if you have any.

**Responses based on pages 2, 3 and 4 of report**

1. What is a school resource officer and what are the typical activities they engage in?
2. What is it about the nature of roles of a school resource officer that might confuse a student and/or put the student at risk when engaging with an SRO?
3. In your K-12 (elementary, middle school and highschool) academic experience did you have school resource officers in your schools? What are some of the positive and negative experiences you remember of the school resource officers? If you didn’t study in schools with SROs then Google and provide a response including some of the positive and negative experiences of students who encounter school resource officers or ask a friend not in this class for their feedback.

**Responses based on page 5 of report**

1. What led to the wide scale adoption of SROs in school systems across the US?

**Responses based on page 8 [School House Hype] of report**

1. According to reports and studies, explain just how likely a student is to suffer from serious crime and violence in schools.
2. What did a report suggest about the impacts on school safety from increasing SROs in school systems and increasing suspensions?
3. What did research by Aaron Kupchick and Nicole Bracy suggest about the impacts of media on public perceptions of school safety and serious crime prevalence in schools?

**Responses based on pages 11 and 12 of report**

1. According to the report, by what other means can school systems provide safe learning environments without investing in SROs?
2. The report suggests that there might be a trend for some school systems to cut the size of SROs because of school budget limitations. In your opinion, should schools maintain the size of SROs just because they provide some teachers and students with increased sense of safety?

**Responses based on pages 13 and 14 of report**

1. From page 13, briefly summarize the findings about what the presence of SROs in schools lead to and how schools are relying on SROs .
2. Explain what you understand from the infograph on page 14. Please explain properly.

**Responses based on pages 17, 18 and 19 of report**

1. According to the report how do SROs disrupt student learning and contribute to the schools-to-prisons pipeline?
2. From the information you have gained from this report so far, how have your original positions on SROs in schools changed or deepened? Any additional thoughts?