

Journal Entry # 18

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Cybercrimes have increased significantly over the past couple of years. Every year, more and more cybercrimes are being committed, however a good number of these cyber incidents are not being reported. One primary reason why victims of cybercrimes does report victimization is because of the feeling of embarrassment. Most victims are scared to admit that they were a victim of a cybercrime. Whether they were catfished, hacked, or fell victim to an online money laundering scheme, they are fearful of the negative reaction other people would throw at them if they admit that they were victims of such crimes. Reactions like “it is your fault for not being careful”, or “you are so dumb to fall for that trick”, often are the reactions victims hear when they report to be a victim of cybercrime. Nowadays, people are quick to judge and will often even blame the victims even without knowing all the facts. Another reason why cyber victims often do not tell anyone that they were a victim of a cybercrime is because of fear of retaliation. Unlike crimes committed in real life, cyber criminals are able to hide their identity which makes it harder to pin point exactly who they are. This feeling of uncertainty makes the victims second guess themselves about going to the proper authorities. They are afraid that the cyber criminals might retaliate and repeat the crimes that were committed. They feel that instead of improving the current situation that they are in, it would only make it worse. Lastly, victims often do not know how or who to report the cybercrimes that they experienced. A good example would be a victim of a phishing scam that resulted in money being stolen from his account. Does the victim need to contact first the bank then call the police? Does police have enough resources to investigate a cybercrime? Another good example would be a victim of cyberbullying. Does the person that was cyberbullied needs to report to the social media platform were the cyberbullying

took place? If the victim is still under the age of 18, can he or she tell his or her parents? What if the cyber offender happened to be in the same school? Can the victim tell his teachers? Report to the principal? These are just some examples of why victims hesitate to open up about being victimized by cybercrimes. We as a society should encourage victims of any crimes, cyber or otherwise, to open up and share their side of the story. We need to uplift and help one another, not bring each other down.