

# Moral Panic

## Sandy Hook Shooting and OJ Simpson Trial

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# Moral Panic Model

There are 5 defining features of the model; however, our project only researched the 3 features that pertained to our events.

- Mass media takes a reasonably ordinary event and present it as an extraordinary occurrence
- Occur during periods of rapid social change
- Usually young people are targeted

# Sandy Hook

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**Location:** Sandy Hook Elementary School Newtown, Connecticut, U.S.

**Date:** December 14, 2012

9:35 a.m. – 9:40 a.m

**Target:** Students and staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School

**Deaths:** 28 (27 at the school including the perpetrator, and the perpetrator's mother at home)

**Non-fatal injuries:** 2

**Perpetrator:** Adam Lanza

# Events of that day

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- Lanza shoots his mother in the face before making his way to the school
- The school had just implemented a new policy, that required visitors to provide Identification before being buzzed in the school.
- Schools doors locked at 9:30 am
- Lanza used an assault weapon to shoot his way into the school
- The principal, vice principal and the school psychologist went out to investigate the noise. Only the vice principal survived
- Lanza entered two classrooms and killed teachers and students.
- Killed Lauren Rousseau, a substitute teacher and 14 Students in the 1st classroom.
- Killed Victoria Soto and six of her first grade students.
- He killed 20 students, six educators and then himself at the school

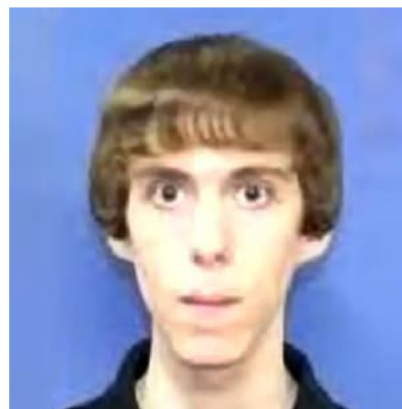




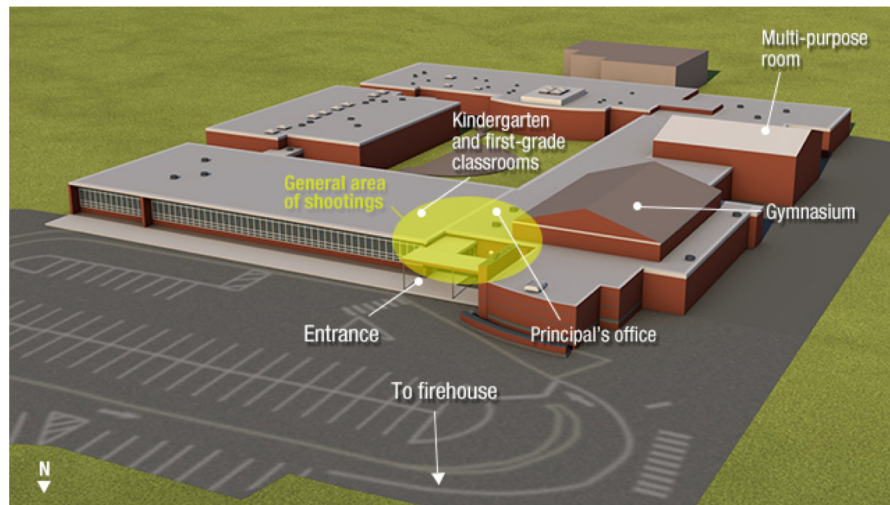
The victims



Weapons  
shooter  
possessed



Shooter



The school

# Media & Moral Panic

Information circulated by the media which influenced moral panic

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- Live news coverage of the event
- Photos of the shooter Adam Lanza
- Details of Lanza killing his mother before heading to the elementary school.
- Videos and images of parents and family members searching for their children broadcasted on the news.
- Length of the shooting and police response time
- Location of shooting
- The time the shooting occurred
- Pictures a of the victims
- The recording to dispatch by police officers who arrived on the scene

# Response due to Media & Moral Panic

The school was closed.

Sandy Hook students returned to classes on January 3, 2013, at Chalk Hill Middle School.

The Newtown school board voted to ask for police officer presence in all of its elementary schools.

2013: Demolition of the existing Sandy Hook Elementary School

2016: New Sandy Hook Elementary School was built

Connecticut House of Representatives Republican Dan Carter introduced the Freedom of Information Act.



### Tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School: What Happened During Newtown, Connecticut Shooting?

- 1:00-1:42
- 4:35- 5:22
- 6-6:40

### CNN Breaking News - Sandy Hook/Newtown Shootings

- :15 - 2:00
- 5:32-6:15
- 40:29-41:10



# Statistics on School Shootings

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- There have been nearly 1,300 school shooting incidents since 1970
- 669 incidents occurred outside on school property and 588 occurred inside the school building.
- 2018 had the greatest number of incidents since 1970, with 82 recorded incidents. The next highest year was 2006 with 59 incidents.
- In 691 incidents, the shooter was a current student at the school.
- 2018 was the highest year for the number of victims killed, including the shooter, with 51 killed.

# Orenthal James “OJ” Simpson

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> Born July 9, 1947 in San Francisco, California to Jimmie Lee Simpson and Eunice Simpson

> Married twice. First to Marguerite Whitley (1967–1979) and then to Nicole Brown (1985–1992)

> Five children. Aaren, Arnelle, Jason Lamar, Justin, and Sydney

> Running back in the National Football League, played for the Buffalo Bills (1969–1977) and the San Francisco 49ers (1978–1979. 11 total seasons played. Still currently inducted in the NFL Hall of Fame since 1985.

> Inmate #: 4013970

# OJ 1967 vs OJ 2017



# People of the State of California v. Orenthal James Simpson

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- June 12 1994
- Incident happened in Brentwood, an affluent neighbourhood in Los Angeles
- Double homicide of O.J's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman a friend of Nicoles
- O.J did not turn himself in, which led to the infamous white bronco chase
- O.J was later arrested and charged with both murders, he then assembled a 'Dream Team' of lawyers to help him win this case.
- Robert Shapiro, Johnnie Cochran, Robert Kardashian, F. Lee Bailey, Alan Dershowitz were the main attorneys
- Due to ineffective prosecution tactics and experts defense work, O.J Simpson was acquitted on all counts and walked away a free man



# O.J and Moral Panic

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- Both the defense team and the media helped create a moral panic by focusing on the race issue of the case.
- This focus on race leads to the Furhman Tapes, worsening of race relations, and moral panic of white people after the case.

# Statistics on violence against Women

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- 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner (not including sexual harassment) at some point in their lives.
- 87,000 women who were intentionally killed in 2017 globally, more than half (50,000- 58 per cent) were killed by intimate partners or family members, meaning that 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day.
- Evidence shows that women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence report higher rates of depression, having an abortion and acquiring HIV, compared to women who have not

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