Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The reading states that the correct procedure is to treat a facial recognition result as a lead that must be verified through traditional investigative methods. Investigators should have compared the suspect's physical characteristics — height, tattoos, build — against the store security footage before making an arrest. That verification step apparently did not happen adequately, since the evidence disproving the match (different height, tattoo) was visible in the footage.

2. The reading notes that communities most harmed by facial recognition errors are also the communities with the least power to challenge the technology. Marcus, like the other documented victims, is a Black man — a demographic facing both the highest false positive rates and, often, the fewest financial and legal resources to mount a defense, clear a record, or sue a city. The cost of expungement, the job loss, and the uphill battle against institutional authority all reflect this power imbalance.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. D

3. C

Matching

1-D, 2-E, 3-B, 4-C, 5-A

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) jail, 2) 2019, 3) prohibited

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Facial recognition systems have documented accuracy gaps that produce false positive matches at dramatically higher rates for darker-skinned individuals, particularly Black women, compared to lighter-skinned individuals. Since false positives are what lead to wrongful identifications, and Black individuals are identified incorrectly far more often, they bear a disproportionate share of the harm when those wrong matches are acted upon by law enforcement.

Q2: In several wrongful arrest cases, investigators failed to treat the facial recognition output as a lead requiring additional verification. Instead, they weighted the software's result too heavily — treating it as closer to evidence than the

reading says it should be. A photo array or comparison of physical characteristics against the actual surveillance footage would have revealed the mismatch before an arrest was made.

Q3: In favor: Supporters argue that facial recognition, used properly with verification steps, can help solve violent crimes and locate missing children faster than traditional methods, producing genuine public safety benefits. Against: Critics argue that the documented accuracy gaps mean the technology is fundamentally unsuited for law enforcement use, because the communities most likely to be wrongly identified also have the least power to challenge those errors, and the consequences — wrongful arrest, job loss, trauma — are irreversible.