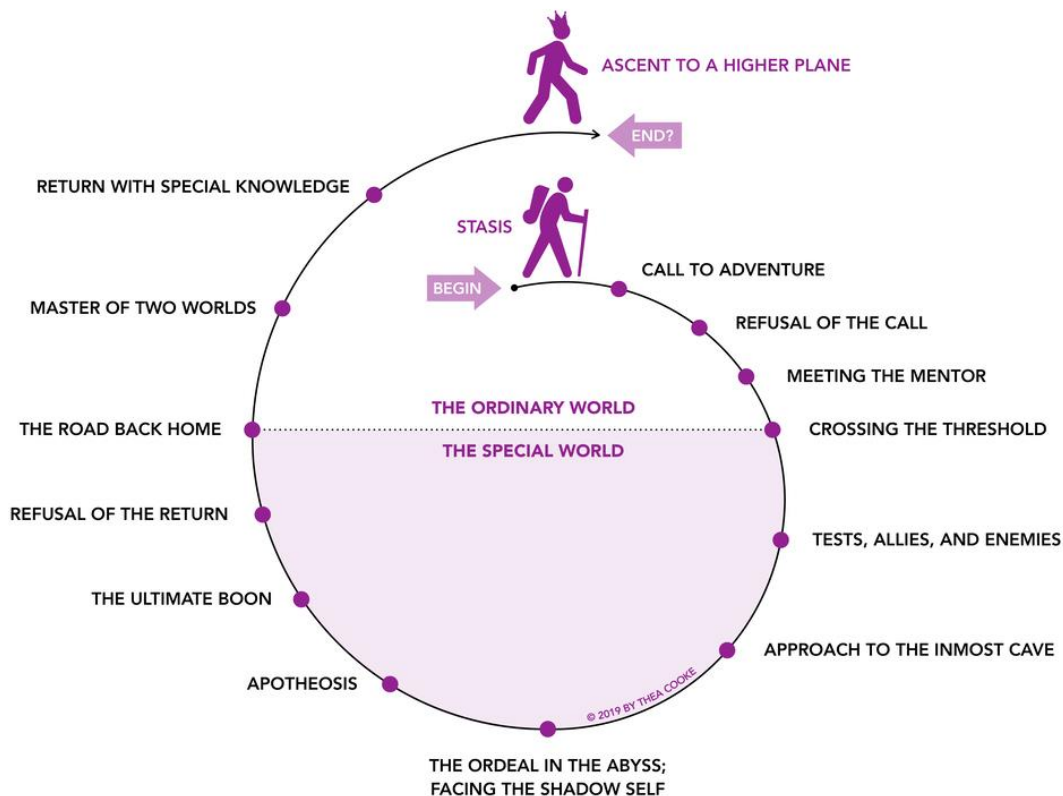


| Make Your own Story |

For this Assignment, we will be doing things in reverse. Instead of analyzing a piece of literature, you will use your newfound literary knowledge to craft a story of your own.

1. You will be given a writing prompt (taken from the Iowa City Police Activity Log) If you missed the class, you may select a tweet from [Police Log Tweets.docx](#) to serve as the inspiration for the story or poem that you write.
2. You will carefully read the prompt (tweet) and consider what string of events would lead to this report. Who are the characters in the story? What are their motivations? How did the activity reported in the tweet transpire?
3. Consider whose story you want to tell in this piece of fiction~and whose perspective it will be told from. Will you use first or third person?
4. Write the story! (at least 1 page)
5. EVERYTHING ABOUT WRITING CONTAINS CHOICES. You choose what decisions your character's going to make, the best words to convey their actions, their feelings, their surroundings, and the tone and emotional resonance of your writing. In a short paragraph, I would like you to briefly reflect upon the decisions you had to make to write your story. Which decisions were easy? Which were difficult? How did you make difficult decisions? IF you were to revise your story, which choices would you change?

Illustration of the Hero's Journey:



Student Example:

Tweet: Bong on a Dumpster

Story: Someone was looking at me. Their face, mine, separated by only a few inches, a thin pane. Drooping eyes flitted from me to those next to me, above me, below me. “Can I get a look at this one?” another came over. A click and a breeze across my glassy surface. Again and again. Then one day, she. She took me home, filled my emptiness with water, love. I filled her with smoke, she breathed me in. So much time spent together, happy time. She took good care of me, bathed me. Always kept me safe, never on the edge of a table. Sesh with the gang, just one of the guys. The happiest time, the best of friends. Flowers bloomed, the air got warm. She stopped spending as much time with me. Always hunched over her desk, reading, writing. She rushed towards something, I didn’t know what. What of this estrangement, my love. Sometimes she looked at me, longing eyes, loving eyes. She started putting all of her things in boxes, not me.

Then, she picked me up. She used me, bathed me. Something was different from the happy times, I didn’t know what. “Thank you, you’ve been good,” tears welled, “I can’t bring you back home with me, my parents wouldn’t like you.” I don’t understand, who cares what others think? She bundled me in her sweatshirt, jerga on glass. It smelled like her, it smelled like me. Her tear fell, filled my emptiness. The fabric fell away, a clang of my base against metal. Piercing sunlight reflected off of me, through me. “Goodbye, bong. I’ll miss you,” she walked away. A cold wind wrapped around me, blew through her hair.

Her tear, all that I had left of her. Vaporized in the heat, her vapor caressed my insides. The last of it floated upwards, left my lips. I desperately tried to cling to her, but the emptiness returned. Why had she left me, why here? Unbearable heat, stench all around. “Bong on a dumpster!” a pointed finger, cruel laughter. Please come back, take me back. “Hi, yes, I’d like to report a bong on a dumpster.” I hadn’t done anything wrong, only what I was made for. All I ever did, what she wanted, when she wanted. Red and blue lights reflected off me, through me. I beg, take me away before they do! Footsteps approached, not hers. I thought she loved me, how could she do this? Fear and grief hardened into rage, glassy rage. Rage that made me want to shatter, shatter her.

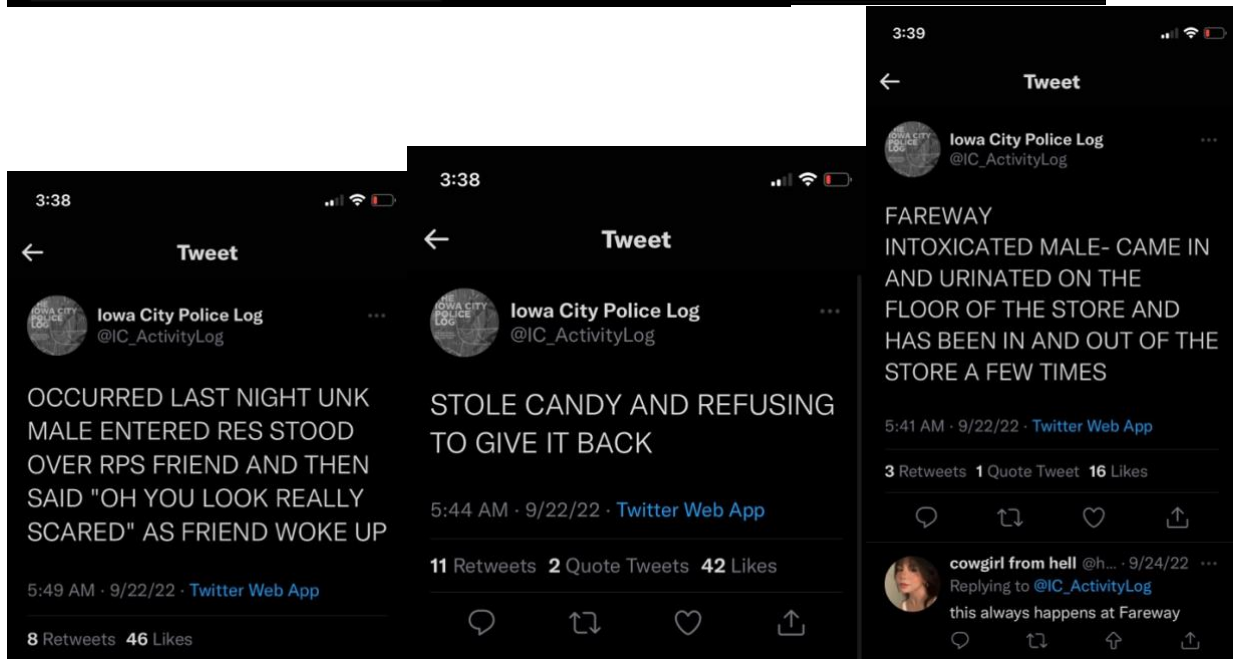
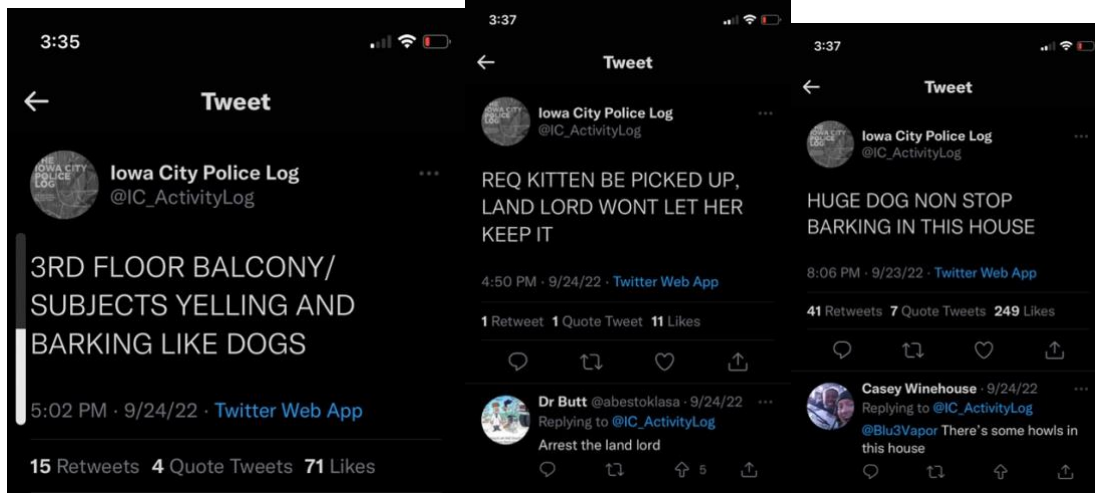
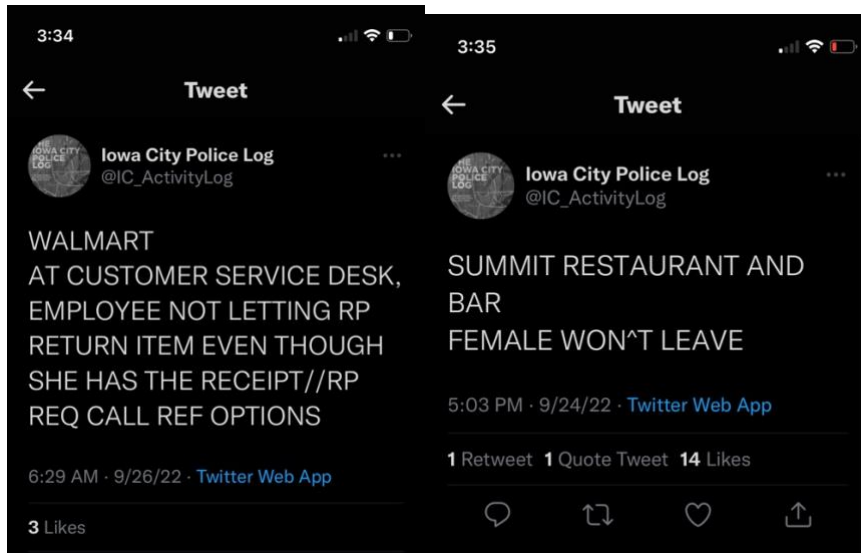
Reflection:

Upon reading the Tweet, a classmate of mine exclaimed, “Aren’t we all just a bong on a dumpster,” more of a statement than a question. His words inspired me to tell this story from the bong’s perspective to help answer some of my many questions. How did the bong get there? Who left it? Why was it left on the dumpster rather than in it? The bong is the only one who knows this story from start to finish. I imagined that a bong would think not in grammatically correct sentences, but in short observational bursts with surprising emotional depth. Since the bong this story is based on was left on a dumpster in Iowa City, I drew inspiration from another story set here. In “Is This Kansas?”, Eula Biss critiques the transience of students and their wasteful habit of leaving their belongings on curbsides and dumpsters when they leave. Bongs, however, can be valuable works of art, cherished by

their owner. It was difficult to imagine someone leaving one there of their own volition. I decided to write a sad story about a student being forced to give up her beloved bong when she moves back home with her parents. The semi-erotic love story between the bong and his girl was an unexpected development. I deliberately omitted physical descriptions of the pair to give the reader the opportunity to impart their own memories and desires onto this story. If I were to revise this piece, I would add a paragraph in which the girl's parents come to visit and she must hide her bong. Confused, ashamed, and hurt, the bong goes through stages of understanding, ending with him convincing himself that of course she loves him, she is only protecting him. This would provide foreshadowing and history. His hurt would compound as he realizes that he should have seen this coming.

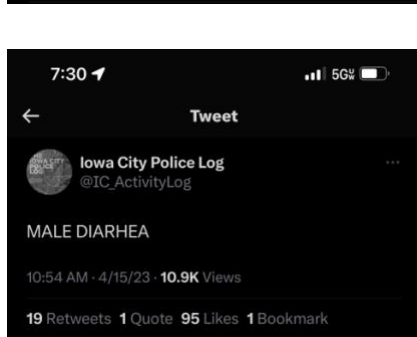
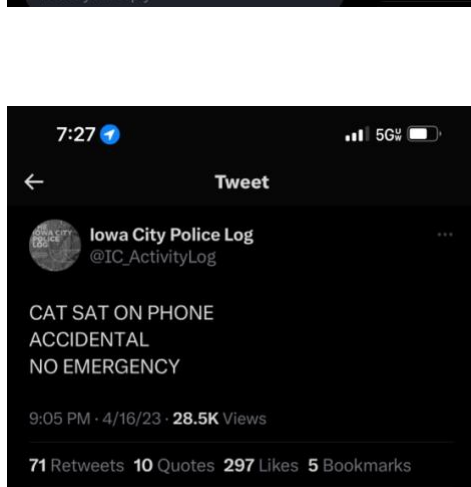
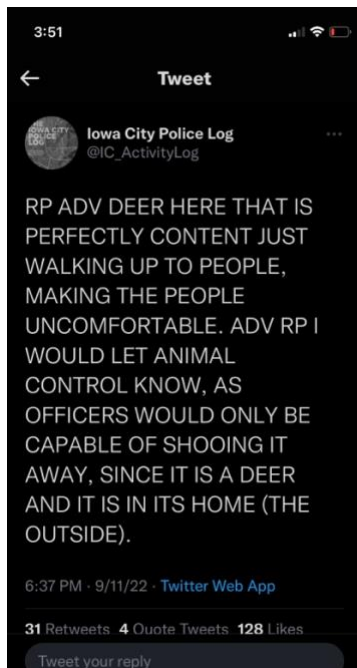




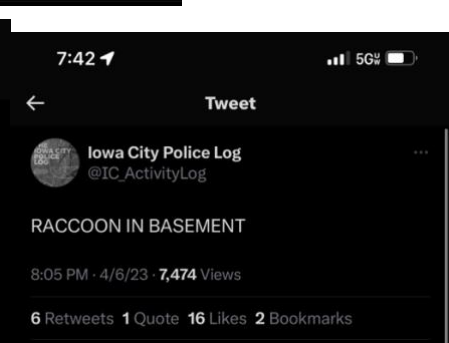


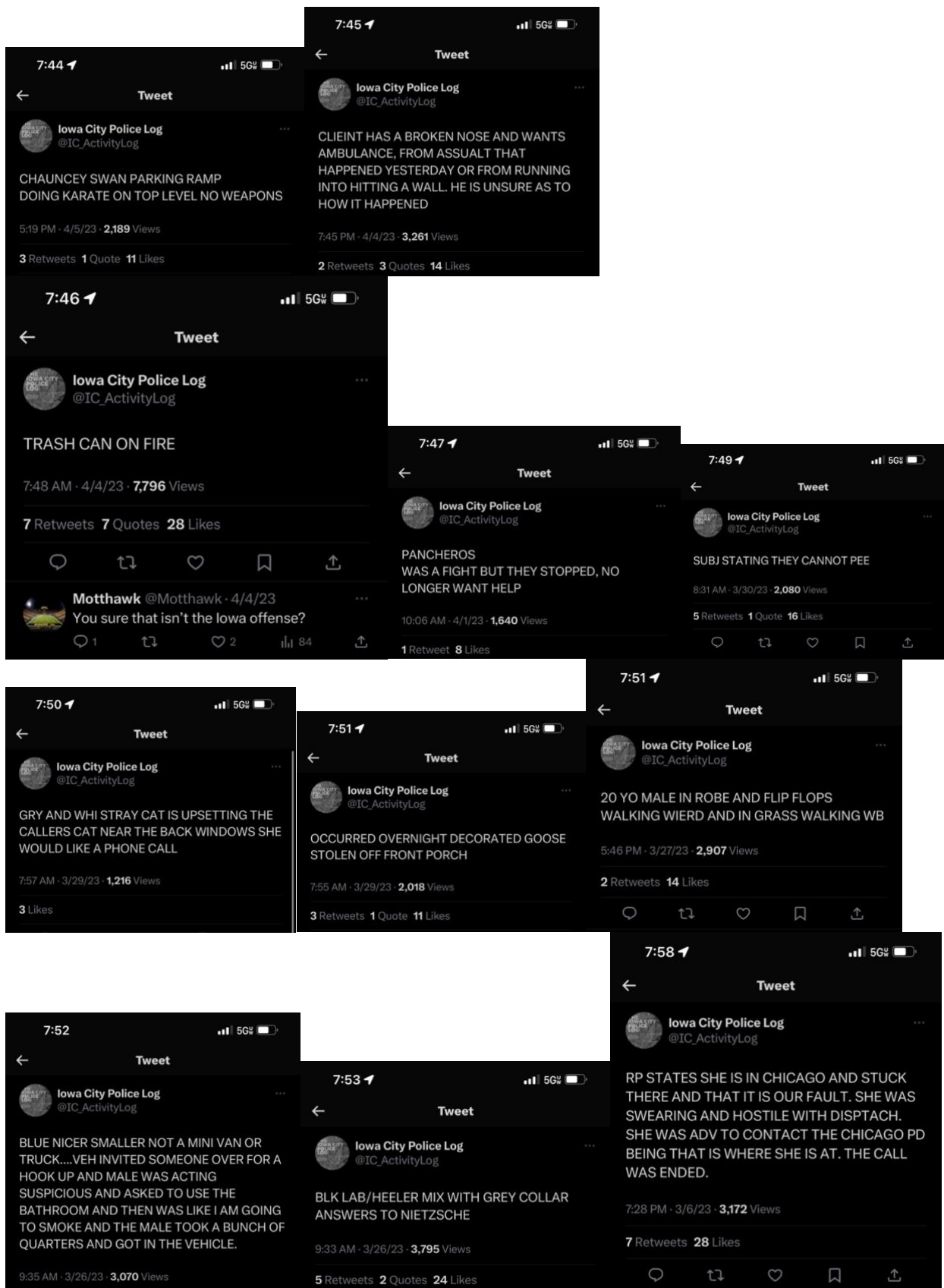














Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 23, 2023

...

SUBJECT IS MAD ABOUT DRUNK PEOPLE, INCLUDING HIMSELF, BEHAVING POORLY. SUBJECT WANTS NEW SHOES AND TO BE YOUNGER AND HEALTHIER. OPTIONS WERE DISCUSSED.

30

1K

4.9K

363K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 6, 2022

...

KUM & GO
2 MALES IN BATHROOM SCREAMING

29

483

3.2K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 23, 2022

...

FEELS LIKE HE IS DYING AND TECHNOLOGY IS TORTURING HIM

13

383

1.5K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Aug 24, 2022

...

WIFE RETURNED

18

325

1.4K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 27, 2023

...

HASNT SPOKE TO A FEMALE IN A FEW DAYS

7

429

1.4K

99K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 4, 2023

...

A MALE WITHOUT A SHIRT IS DOING KARATE MOVES AT THE FOUNTAIN, MAKING PARENTS AND CHILDREN NERVOUS.

42

421

1.4K

364K





Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Apr 11, 2023

...

CARS PARKED ILLEGALLY ON THE STREET, 2 BEDS SET UP IN BACKYARD,
40 TO 50 PEOPLE WEARING WEIRD GOWNS

43

260

1.3K

2M



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · May 1, 2020

...

DOG HAS TSHIRT ON BUT NOT COLLAR

14

163

1.3K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 25, 2023

...

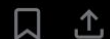
MALE WHO HAS BEEN WARNED NOT TO BE HERE IS HERE AGAIN

7

331

1.2K

90K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 9, 2020

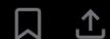
...

CALLER UPSET ABOUT A TRAIN SOMEWHERE IN IOWA CITY HONKING ITS
HORN

2

78

328



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 11, 2022

...

HALLOWEEN DECOR SCREAMING AND IT NEVER STOPS - ALL DAY EVERY
DAY FOR THE LAST 5 DAYS

3

63

319



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Jul 29, 2018

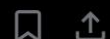
...

RP WANTS HALF HIS MONEY BACK BECUSE HE IS GETTING LAUGHED AT
DUE TO HIS HAIRCUT, PEOPLE SAID HE LOOKS LIKE A "LITTLE DUTCH BOY
ON CRACK" WHEN ASKED FOR HIS NUMBER TO HAVE AN OFFICER CALL
HIM BACK HE SAID FORGET IT AND HUNG UP www8.iowa-city.org/icgov/apps/pol...

7

115

314





Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 17, 2023

...

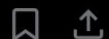
LARGE GROUP OF CORGIS RUNNING LOOSE

31

278

1K

136K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Apr 8, 2020

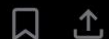
...

MALE HUGGING A DOG FOR PAST 2 HOURS AT THIS LOCATION JUST SITTING ON CURB

43

241

1K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 15, 2023

...

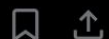
FEMALE IS BIPOLAR AND NOT MEDICATED

6

259

874

66K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 3, 2020

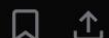
...

MALE PASSED OUT WITH A DONUT ON HIS CHEST MAIN LOBBY

28

192

760



Like



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 10, 2021

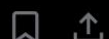
...

COUCH ON FIRE IN THE STREET

6

93

690



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · May 15, 2022

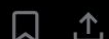
...

PROTESTORS HAVE GONE FROM PROTESTING QUIETLY TO USING CHALK ON THE SIDEWALK, CALLER REQUESTING OFFICER TO CHECK IF THIS IS LEGAL

37

115

662





Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Aug 4, 2022



WANTS TO BE DONE WITH THE NONSENSE IN IOWA CITY



10



154



615



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 6, 2020



MALE AND FEMALE ARGUING AT PANCHEROS. FEMALE THREW BURRITO AT MALE



17



98



589



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Dec 17, 2021



DUMPSTER ON FIRE
THERE ARE FLAMES INSIDE THE DUMPSTER



22



180



577



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 3, 2020



CHILD DIALED 911, ADVISED ME SHE LIKES SCOOBY DOO AND NOW IS JUST AN OPEN LINE



5



73



538



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 9, 2021



LARGE PARTY
228-230 MELROSE CT



24



78



545



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Aug 28, 2022



BURST OF TELEPATHIC ENERGY TELLING HIM SOMETHING IS HAPPENING AT THIS ADDRESS



6



105



533





Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Jan 15, 2021

...

RACCOON IN MIDDLE OF ROAD ACTING ODD

19

131

533



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Nov 20, 2021

...

DRINKING AND SCREAMING

8

167

492



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Nov 26, 2022

...

NO SHOES NO PANTS JUST DIAPER

12

121

488



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Jul 8, 2020

...

BONG ON A DUMPSTER

18

130

451



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 8, 2023

...

MALE DRESSED AS A CLOWN IS HARASSING EMPLOYEES AT THE SALVATION ARMY AND REFUSING TO LEAVE

14

148

456

246K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Apr 30, 2022

...

SUMMIT RESTAURANT & BAR

PEOPLE ARE WORKING FOR MINIMUM WAGE, STAFF LETTING UNDERAGE PEOPLE IN, ALSO THE ROOF IS LEAKING SEWER WATER AND THEY SERVE IT TO PEOPLE. A CUSTOMER WAS DRAGGED OUT BY HIS HAIR TONIGHT B/C HE DIDN^T SPEND ENOUGH MONEY

8

88

447





Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Aug 16, 2019

...

OPOSSUM ON THE ALPHA PHI FRONT PORCH THE GIRLS ARE COMING BACK FROM SPRING BREAK AND ARE SCARED



5



76



440



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Jan 22, 2021

...

BRUEGGERS BAGELS: MALE FELL IN THE PARKING LOT AND INTOX, SAID "I^VE BEEN DRINKING, JUST LET ME LAY HERE AND DIE" W/M DRK GRY COAT, BLU JEANS



12



79



431



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 19, 2023

...

RP ADVISED HE FELL ASLEEP ON THE BUS AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PILFERED OF HIS WARES



9



124



415



27K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Jan 28, 2019

...

FEMALE STATING THAT IF WE DONT COME GET THIS GUY OUT OF HER HOUSE SHE WILL TAKE HIM OUT IN A BODY BAG



4



77



415



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 22, 2023

...

MALE ON GRINDR SAYING HE IS BEING HELD CAPTIVE



3



93



392



27K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 21, 2019

...

FEMALE SUBJECT PICKED UP DEER SHE HIT ON ROAD AND PUT IN BACK SEAT AND DEER IS STILL ALIVE



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 22, 2023



TRASHMAN ADVISED THERE IS A MALE IN A TRASHCAN



11



110



342



55K



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Sep 6, 2022



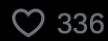
LANGUAGE BARRIER....PARAKEET IN A TREE NOT COMING DOWN REQ ASSISTANCE



2



49



336



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Aug 27, 2019



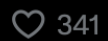
FEMALE JUST WALKED IN AND PEED AT THE SHERATON FRONT DESK



17



70



341



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 31, 2022



FEMALE LOCKED IN THE BATHROOM, DESTROYING IT



5



46



335



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Oct 20, 2022



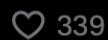
CALLER ADVISING HE SMELLED GAS IN THE BUILDING AND HE TOLD THE MANAGER THIS AND THE MANAGER TOLD HIM IT WASNT GAS IT WAS TOFU



2



34



339



Iowa City Police Log @IC_ActivityLog · Nov 11, 2022



MALE WALKED IN SOAKING WET- SAYS HE DOESN^T KNOW HOW HE GOT THERE OR WHERE HE IS SUPPOSED TO BE



3



70



331

