

**Interdisciplinary Seminar on Domestic Violence (Law 603)**  
**Black and Blue by Anna Quindlen**  
**Spring 2012**

Following are some suggested issues for consideration before the class discussion on Black and Blue by Anna Quindlen. You are expected to have read Black and Blue by the first class; we will be discussing the book the first evening of class. No written responses are necessary.

1. Consider the impact of domestic abuse on the characters in the story who are victims. Analyze their experience, perception, and responses. What are the consequences for the victim(s) of the experiences?
2. Consider the impact of domestic abuse on the characters in the story who are not victims, but whose lives are significantly impacted or shaped by the domestic abuse (they may be bystanders and/or witnesses, including parents, friends, family, acquaintances of the victim(s) and/or perpetrator).
3. How might the negative effects of domestic violence on the victim(s) have been reduced or ameliorated by more effective community or institutional efforts to address domestic violence?
4. How might the responses of the bystanders and witnesses been different were there more effective community and institutional efforts to address domestic violence?
5. What role does class, cultural mores, gender roles, family dynamics contribute to domestic violence?
6. To what extent do you consider the story in Black and Blue to be representative of domestic violence?