**Road Rage**

***The Tailgater's Tantrum***

A station wagon driver, upset that a pickup truck was tailgating him, slammed on his brakes to stop the tailgater. The pickup driver then pulled alongside the station wagon, threatened to kill its· driver, and aimed his truck at the station wagon. The station wagon driver had to keep swerving into oncoming traffic lanes to avoid a collision. The pickup driver pulled in front of the station wagon and braked, trying to cause the station wagon driver to slam into the truck. The pickup driver then followed the other man home, where the two drivers argued over the incident.

Luckily, the pickup driver left before the incident escalated any farther. Other drivers, however, have been killed by women as well as by men for driving too slowly, played their car stereo too loudly, or displayed an obscene gesture after being tailgated or cut off on the road.

***The Parking Lot Punch***

Renee and her husband, Richard, were pulling out of a parking lot one evening when another young driver almost ran into them. Scared and upset by the near miss, Renee angrily yelled at the driver that he had almost hit her and her husband. Then she got out of her car and went over to the offending driver's car, waved her hand at the driver, and again yelled that he had almost hit their car. Jai, the offending driver, slapped Renee's hand, whereupon she slapped him back. Richard then slapped Jai and the two men began scuffling. By that time, a crowd had gathered. A few men tried io separate the drivers, but Jai still manages to deliver a fatal punch to Richard's head. Richard died in the parking lot. Jai was charged with second-degree murder for Richard's death. All of this happened because of anger over a close call in the parking lot.

1. How did each of the individuals in these situations let his or her emotions get out of control? What harm resulted, or could have resulted?
2. Which of the individuals were in the right io begin with? Did that also give them the right to lose their tempers as they did? Explain.
3. Did any of these persons try, in a sense, to make his or her own morality? Explain.
4. Describe a situation in which you have been sorely tempted to lose your temper when someone wronged you. How did you: respond? Why?
5. How do you think you would have responded in each of the road rage situations? Why? How should you respond? Explain.