

The set-up:

WES and GREG, two high school students, try to stop JACK, a star athlete, from bullying them.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Wes vomits in a stall while Greg waits. A younger student enters, sees them, and leaves.

Wes washes his face.

GREG

For the record, I'm not happy about this.

WES

Don't make out like it's my fault.

GREG

I was trying to run to get you help.

WES

You folded like paper.

GREG

You did!

WES

Whatever.

GREG

I said I would bail you out!

Wes wipes snot from his nose.

WES

Can you do it?

INT. COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Wes watches Greg hack the school's computer system.

GREG

I swore to my mother I'd never do this again. My mother.

WES

She's not going to save you when Jack's kicking your teeth out.

GREG  
Stop saying shit like that.

Greg finds the test on the system.

GREG (CONT'D)  
The printer on?

WES  
Just email it.

GREG  
I'm not emailing it! I can't  
download the test! Is the printer  
on or what?

WES  
Yeah.

The printer kicks into action and MR. C., a stern looking  
teacher, sticks his head in the door.

MR. C.  
Gregory! Why aren't you in class?

GREG  
He has a note!

Wes holds up a pink slip but Mr. C. sees the test in the  
printer.

MR. C.  
Shit. Greg?

INT. PRINCIPAL FORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Wes and Greg sit facing PRINCIPAL FORD, a tall man in his  
60's with an ex-athlete's physique. His ten gallon hat rests  
on a bull riding trophy beside numerous football awards.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Now Gregory here, he's a known  
entity around these parts. What do  
you think that makes you, then?

WES  
A new entity?

PRINCIPAL FORD  
I was going to say unknown, but you  
got a handle on it.

GREG

Are you going to suspend us?

PRINCIPAL FORD

Guaranteed, son. Guaranteed. But that's the good news. If I don't like the way this here interrogation goes, it's a handshake and a call to the police.

GREG

Police?!

PRINCIPAL FORD

Theft, ain't it?

WES

It's my fault. I was logging onto the system to check my class schedule. I saw the faculty and staff link and clicked on it out of curiosity. A faculty member must have been using the computer and not signed out, because I got right in. I know it was stupid, but to make a point, I printed the test and that's when Mr. C. found us.

PRINCIPAL FORD

(to Greg)

Happened just like he said?

GREG

It was my idea to print the test. For proof.

PRINCIPAL FORD

For proof, huh?

GREG

That the teacher didn't log out. That we didn't, you know, steal it or anything.

PRINCIPAL FORD

Might I suggest that if someone hands you a shovel to dig yourself out, don't use it to toss more bullshit at 'em?

Ford presses the intercom button.

PRINCIPAL FORD (CONT'D)  
Sally, would you please get me  
Donny Lowe, down at the police  
station?

WES  
The cops? For your big cyber crime  
case?

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Uh huh.

WES  
That's a sexy crime.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
A crime nonetheless.

GREG  
I did it.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Come again?

GREG  
I did it.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
(into intercom)  
Hold on, Sally.

GREG  
I hacked it.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Well I'm mighty obliged. For the  
truth, that is. But for the life of  
me, I can't figure out why either  
of you'd want to steal a test for a  
class you're not in.  
(beat)  
I think I'll go through the list of  
students who would want that test  
and see if I can't find a  
connection.

WES  
You got us, we surrender, we're  
suspended. Can we leave it at that?

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Don't think so. Like you said, it's  
a sexy case.

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

The high school FOOTBALL TEAM practices. Principal Ford joins COACH, a lean, grey-haired man.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Looking good coach, looking good.

COACH  
You want something or you just bored of push'n paper around?

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Little bit a both. Need a word with your captain.

MOMENTS LATER, TO THE SIDE

Principal Ford talks with Jack, the captain of the team.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Think that arm's going to bring home the championship?

JACK  
I'll do my best, sir.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
I believe that's what you said last year.

JACK  
We fought a good fight, sir.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Sure you did. But now the Panthers, the team what won, they got funding for a sixty million dollar stadium. Can you imagine that?  
(beat)  
How are your studies coming along?

JACK  
Fine, sir.

PRINCIPAL FORD  
Then why're you roughing up kids so's they'll help you cheat?  
(beat)  
If your grades slip, well that old bullfrog over there is gonna put you on the bench, isn't he?  
(MORE)

PRINCIPAL FORD (CONT'D)

And if I'm forced to suspend you for getting rough with some fellow students, well, either way, there goes your shot at college.

JACK

Yes, sir.

PRINCIPAL FORD

Stop being a dumbass.

Principal Ford holds out the test.

JACK

What's that?

PRINCIPAL FORD

Didn't we just establish we both need you on that field? Because when you're long gone, you know what'll still be here?

JACK

You?

PRINCIPAL FORD

With any luck. But no, that big, beautiful sports arena will be here. So, I do my part, now you do yours.

JACK

I studied for that test!

PRINCIPAL FORD

You just wanted a little extra insurance, huh?

JACK

They offered to get it!

Principal Ford throws the test at him.

PRINCIPAL FORD

Just get it done.