

Table 5—The Violent Exchange

Opportunity Theorists see violence as an interaction or exchange between the victim and the offender.

Luckenbill and Doyle (1989) provide an example of a violent exchange that they call a Character Contest. The Character Contest involves “naming and claiming” and occurs in the following 5 stages:

- 1. The Character Contest starts when one person, the challenger, attacks the other’s identity (e.g., insults his honor, strength, courage, integrity, etc.)**
- 2. The other responds by defining the attack or insult as offensive (i.e., NAMING it as an insult or attack)**
- 3. The other may then demand or CLAIM the need for reparations from the challenger in order to restore his identity (CLAIMING)**
- 4. At this point, the challenger may back down and risk losing face or he may maintain or intensify the attack**
- 5. One or both of them may use force or get weapons resulting in an aggravated assault or a homicide.**

Because Luckenbill and Doyle see violence as an exchange between victim and offender, they do not predict violence by looking at which offenders are most motivated to be violent. They predict violence by looking at which character contests are most likely to escalate to violence.

To explain race differences in violence, Luckenbill and Doyle (1989) argue that blacks are more disputatious (i.e., more likely to name and claim) and that black disputatiousness is culturally transmitted.

PROBLEMS with arguing that black subcultures of violence are more disputatious than white subcultures of violence.

