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TEARING DOWN WALLS, BUILDING CAPACITY, & DESIGNING OUR FUTURE

Preventing Rape Culture and Fostering a Culture of Consent

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What do you think?

Listen to hypothetical

Rank this scenario – 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5

1 = NOT rape  **5 = rape**



Does Rape Culture Exist?

- ***The Rape ‘Epidemic’ Doesn’t Actually Exist*** by Caroline Kitchens, October 23, 2013, (U.S. News)
- ***It’s Time to End ‘Rape Culture’ Hysteria*** by Caroline Kitchens, March 20, 2014 (TIME.com)
- ***No, 1 in 5 women have not been raped on college campuses*** by Ashe Schow, August 2014 (www.washingtonexaminder.com)
- ***The myth of the college ‘rape culture’*** by Naomi Schaefer Riley, September 27, 2015 (nypost.com)
- ***The ‘Rape Culture’ Lie – Zero shades of grey*** by Heather Wilhelm, Mar, 2015 (www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/the-rape-culture-lie/)
- ***My teen boys are blind to rape culture*** by Jody Allard, September 14, 2016 (The Washington Post)
- ***The Rape Culture Myth*** by Cathy Young, July 30, 2017 (arcdigital.media/the-rape-culture-myth-5e8f968b5c76)
- ***Flawed Notion of ‘rape culture’ is lacking in logic*** by Fionola Meredith, November 8, 2017 (www.irishtimes.com)
- ***5 Ways We Teach Rape Culture in Schools*** by Tom Rademacher, March 21, 2018 (educationpost.org)

And then a headline like this headline appears:

“Four weeks. 12 sexual assaults reported.
And Ohio University students are ‘fed up.’”



- USA Today, September 26, 2018
- <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/four-weeks-12-sexual-assaults-reported-and-ohio-university-students-are-%E2%80%98fed-up%E2%80%99/ar-AAAF4U9>



Id.

What is rape culture?

“Rape culture is an environment in which rape is prevalent and in which sexual violence against women is normalized and excused in the media and popular culture.”

From: Marshall University cited in Teaching Rape Culture by Cat Pause, March 10, 2017 (Inside Higher Education)

Another definition

“[Rape culture] is a complex set of beliefs that encourage male sexual aggression and supports violence against women. It is a society where violence is seen as sexy and sexuality as violent. In a rape culture, women perceive a continuum of threatened violence that ranges from sexual remarks to sexual touching to rape itself. A rape culture condones physical and emotional terrorism against women as the norm.”

From: *The Rape Culture Myth* by Cathy Young, July 30, 2017, (arcdigital.media) citing Emilie Buchwald, Pamela R. Fletcher and Martha Roth (eds.), *Transforming a Rape Culture*; Minneapolis (MN): Milkwood Editions, 1993, p. vii.

Examples of Rape Culture

- Blaming the victim (“She asked for it.”)
- Trivializing sexual assault (“Boys will be boys!”)
- Sexually explicit jokes
- Tolerance of sexual harassment
- Inflating false rape report statistics
- Publicly scrutinizing a victim’s dress, mental state, motives, and history
- Gratuitous gendered violence in movies and television

- Defining “manhood” as dominant and sexually aggressive
- Defining “womanhood” as submissive and sexually passive
- Pressure on men to “score”
- Pressure on women to not appear “cold”
- Assuming only promiscuous women get raped
- Assuming that men don’t get raped or that only “weak” men get raped
- Refusing to take rape accusations seriously
- Teaching women to avoid getting raped

How to Prevent Rape Culture?

Open the Dialog

Raise Awareness

Help Define Expectations

Hold People Accountable

Is it that easy?

Here is what some schools are doing

1. Policies and educational awareness on:
 - a. Consent
 - b. Healthy relationships/sexuality
 - c. Sexual assault
 - d. Violence
 - e. Anonymous reporting
 - f. Other policies?

2. Training Programs and Guest Speakers on:

- a. Sexual Health Classes
- b. Consent – what it is as well as the law in your state
- c. Bystander Intervention

e.g. Johns Hopkins University – Three D’s – Direct, Distract, Delegate
(<http://www.campussafetymagazine.com/article/The-3-Ds-of-Sexual-Assault->
- d. Ramifications and Impact of Behavior
- e. Examining masculinity in society
- f. Student leader training
- g. Train administrators and employees on what they need to know
- h. Student Orientation program
- i. Other programs?

Overall, facilitate discussions on healthy communications, positive sexuality, sexual attitudes and decision-making skills.

3. **Create safe discussion** spaces such as peer-to-peer conversations shaped by deep listening and open, non-judgmental responses
4. **Have an app** that students can use to monitor their movements on campus, contact a friend or police, or access a list of campus resources for help
5. **Campus climate survey**
6. **Go to person**

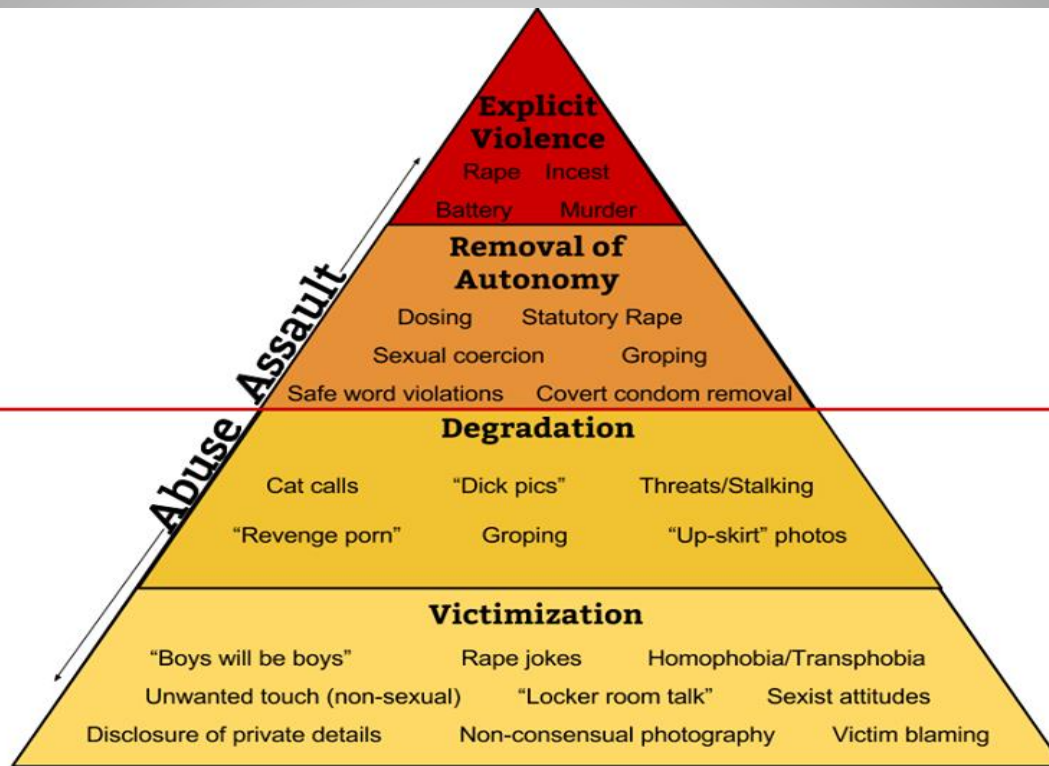
7. Student led Programs – Peer education

- a. Movies
- b. Articles
- c. Bring in outside presenters with skits e.g. No Zebras, No excuses
- d. Posters
- e. Student ideas of what safety measures should be implemented – shared with administration

TEACH STUDENTS HOW CAN MEN AND WOMEN COMBAT RAPE CULTURE AND VICTIM BLAMING?

- Avoid using language that objectifies or degrades women
- Speak out if you hear someone else making an offensive joke or trivializing rape
- If a friend says they have been raped, take your friend seriously and be supportive
- Think critically about the media's messages about women, men, relationships, and violence
- Be respectful of others' physical space even in casual situations
- Let survivors know that it is not their fault

From: Rape Culture, Victim Blaming and The Facts by Southern Connecticut State University –Adapted from Marshall University and Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness



This is Rape Culture.

These are not isolated incidents. The attitudes and actions on the bottom tiers reinforce and excuse those on the upper. This is systematic.

**If this is to change, the culture must change.
Start the conversation today.**



- Hold abusers accountable for their actions: do not let them make excuses like blaming the victim, alcohol, or drugs for their behavior
- Always communicate with sexual partners and do not assume consent
- Define your own manhood or womanhood. Do not let stereotypes shape your actions.
- Be an Active Bystander!

Id.

Overall, set expectations, educate, hold people accountable
and promote a positive school culture.

What else is your school doing
to address the rape culture?

Resources

- *No Zebras. No Excuses. Sexual Violence Prevention and Bystander Education Programs* (www.nozebrasandmore.com)
- How education can stop a growing rape culture by Sam Bernstein, November 30, 2017 (<http://beverlyhighlights.com/2017>)
- Additional Resources From Stop Sexual Assault in Schools at <https://nwlc.org/resources/additional-resources-from-sto-sexual-assault-in-schools/>
- United Educators Resources: (a) *Changing Campus Culture to Prevent Sexual Assault*, (b) *Study: College athletes are more likely to gang rape- Nine things you may not have known about college sexual assault, according to an insurance company*, by Claire Gordon, February 26, 2015, (c) *Confronting Campus Sexual Assault: An Examination of Higher Education Claims* (2015)
- *Stepping Up to Stop Sexual Assault* by Michael Winerip, February 7, 2014, The New York Times
- Rape-Prevention Programs Proliferate, but ‘It’s Hard to Know’ Whether They Work, by Piper Fogg

Resources

- **Disrupting Rape Culture Through Education** by Colleen Clemens, September 15, 2016, www.tolerance.org
- **To Prevent Sexual Assault, Schools and Parents Start Lessons Early**, by Tovia Smith, August 9, 2016, www.npr.org
- **Ten Things to End Rape Culture**, by The Nation, February 4, 2013, www.thenation.com
- **It's never too early to teach children about consent and boundaries**, by Anne Theriault, February 13, 2015, www.washingtonpost.com

Questions?



Presenters:



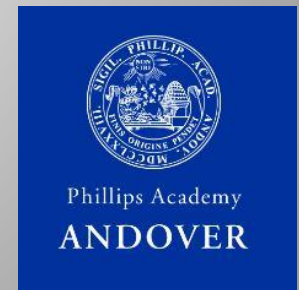
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Thank you!

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FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC SITUATIONS,
SEEK LEGAL ADVICE.