

CONSENT ON CAMPUS: BEING BRIDGES NOT BROKEN RECORDS

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FLOW

- ❖ What is Rape Culture, really?
- ❖ Rape Culture vs. Consent Culture
- ❖ Consent Messaging
- ❖ Case Studies

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WHAT IS RAPE CULTURE, REALLY?

- ❖ Blaming the victim
- ❖ Trivializing sexual assault
- ❖ Sexually explicit jokes
- ❖ Tolerance of sexual harassment
- ❖ Gratuitous gendered violence in media
- ❖ Legal system that revictimizes survivors

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RAPE CULTURE VS. CONSENT CULTURE

- ❖ Assume men will be sexually predatory if given the chance
- ❖ Masculinity and manhood is not equated to being constantly sexually available or predatory

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RAPE CULTURE VS. CONSENT CULTURE

❖ Sexual situations can *always* turn threatening for women, so they are hypervigilant about clothing, location, being alone, their drinks, and how they are being perceived.

❖ Sexual exchanges are no more threatening for one gender vs. another.

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RAPE CULTURE VS. CONSENT CULTURE

❖ Guys brag about having sex with many people, about dominating them, or about scheming to manipulate them into sexual experience.

❖ Guys bragging about sexual exploitation of others are disapproved of.

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RAPE CULTURE VS. CONSENT CULTURE

❖ Jokes and threats about rape are not a big deal. To feel harmed by them is seen as being "oversensitive" or cowering to "political correctness".

❖ Threats about rape are understood to cause fear and pain. Jokes about rape are seen as fringe and extreme.

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LET'S MAKE LISTS

1. Saying YES is hard
2. Saying NO is hard
3. Things people do when they are insecure
4. What rejection looks like

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CONSENT MESSAGING

What are some current consent messaging and slogans that come to mind?

Main Categories of Messaging

Legality / Rules

Scripts

“Do it”

“It’s easy + sexy”

”You have no right...”

”You have the right”

**CONSENT
IS SEXY.**

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Photo of a
clear road
leading to
mountains

“Sexual consent is
easy, sexy, simple. Do
it!”

Photo of a
large rock
blocking a
clear road

“Sexual consent can be
challenging, awkward, new.
And it leads to a good place”

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LET'S TALK ABOUT ROCKS

- Legality / Rules ←
- Didn't know the law
- Scripts ←
- Don't know the words
- "Do it"
- "It's easy + sexy" ←
- Entitlement
- "You have no right..." ←
- Guilt
- "You have the right" ←
- Shame
- Fear

??

- Rejection
- Reputation
- Ambivalence
- Safety
- Gender expectations
- Substance/inebriation

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REJECTION

- ❖ Name it as rejection – remove masks
- ❖ Adjust expectations – it's supposed to happen
- ❖ Give "outs" – walk through options, now what do I do?
- ❖ Give permission for fear, imperfection, not feeling ready
- ❖ Pain requires attention and care
- ❖ Help them recognize their courage, acknowledge it
- ❖ Counter to "feel good" culture

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GUILT & BOUNDARIES

- ❖ Asking is new, answering is also new
- ❖ Recognize patriarchal dynamic & chronic inappropriate sexual boundaries
- ❖ Boundary setting is dysfunctional for many people, habitual guilt
- ❖ Cannot just say “it’s your right” – everything else says it’s not
- ❖ Have to instill a new habit = practice
- ❖ Build resilience to that feeling of someone else being upset / disappointed
- ❖ Change “How do I say no without hurting his feelings?” to How do I withstand the feelings of guilt when I set my boundary?

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CASE CHALLENGE 1

A student you work with was recently cut from the rugby team. He is depressed and has been missing class. Your job is to intervene before he fails his classes.

When asked how he is doing, he tells you, “Oh I’m totally fine. Fuck rugby. It’s the stupidest sport ever invented”.

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CASE CHALLENGE 2

A student is obsessed about someone on campus. They know this person's weekly schedule and is always creeping them online.

At first it was funny, and they shared it with you self-deprecatingly.

But you just found out that they are sending them anonymous messages that mention little details, like what this person is wearing on a certain day and that it was a great outfit.

This student volunteers for events that you organize, you see them weekly. What do you do?

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CASE CHALLENGE 3

You need one more student for a committee that you chair. One of the current committee members (a student) says that they can easily "guilt" their roommate into the role.

You could really use the help but you don't want the new member to be manipulated. How do you handle it?

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CASE CHALLENGE 4

There has been rumors of “orgy parties” happening in residence. There are also rumors of videos of students having sex circulated without their consent.

Your job is to find out whether these rumors are true. How do you proceed?

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THANK YOU

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