



BRAVE MISS WORLD

IX QUESTIONS COLLEGE AUDIENCE

I

In the United States, college women are in the demographic most likely to experience rape and sexual assault. A Department of Justice report estimates that as many as one in four American women will be the target of rape or sexual assault during her four-year college career. We hear the stories of some of these college women in *Brave Miss World*. On your campus, do you think rape and sexual assault are prevalent? Do you know someone who has been a target of rape or assault?

II

Are you aware of the policies and procedures for reporting rape or sexual assault on your campus? If not, where can you go, or whom can you ask, to learn about how to report a campus rape to campus police, the administration, or campus mental health services? (See SAFER's [Campus Sexual Assault Policy Database](#) to search for your school's policy.)

III

Take a poll of the room: How many in your group know that in the United States, a federal civil rights law called Title IX protects all students from sex-based discrimination in educational settings? How many people know that Title IX prohibits sex-based discrimination in sports? How many know that it also requires that schools be proactive in preventing and handling complaints of sexual harassment and sexual violence on campus? Visit the website of the group Know Your IX at www.knowyourix.org/title-ix/title-ix-the-basics to test your group's knowledge of Title IX. The relevant aspect of Title IX in the context of campus rape is that Title IX guarantees a safe learning environment on college campuses, and therefore a university administration's failure to respond adequately to reports of rape is a failure to comply with Title IX.

IV

In *Brave Miss World*, Linor puts a lot of emphasis on the role of supportive friends and family in her journey toward healing. If a friend or family member of yours were the target of rape, would you know what to say? (For some suggestions, read [“What To Say If Your Best Friend Tells You She Was Raped”](#) at xoJane or [“20 Things to Never To Say To A Friend Who Confides In You That They've Been Sexually Assaulted”](#) at Feministe.)

V

In many cases of sexual assault and rape, the assailant is known to the victim, e.g. date rape, or rape within an existing relationship when sex becomes non-consensual. (In a report published by the US Department of Justice, for example, it was estimated that 35% of attempted rapes and 12.8% of completed rapes happened while the survivor and the assailant were on a date.) Does this statistic surprise you? Why or why not?

VI

On many college campuses, it is commonly assumed that women who have been drinking are “responsible” or “at fault” if they are the target of an attempted or completed assault or rape. Does this myth exist on your campus? Describe how the myth plays out in social settings, in jokes made about rape, or your experiences. How can you debunk this myth? What do you think campus administrators and law enforcement can do to debunk this myth?

VII

Campus rape is often considered a “women's” issue. Do you think this is true? Are men on your campus also vulnerable to sexual assault? Are men visible in rape prevention and awareness activities on your campus, like Take Back the Night marches or Sexual Assault Awareness Month programming? What are the barriers to men's involvement in such activities on your campus? How could these barriers be removed?

VIII

What is the culture of “consent” on your campus? In *Brave Miss World*, we hear a hazing ritual in which college men shout, “No means yes; yes means anal.” Does this kind of “joking” around consent take place on your campus? What is your definition of consent? Is your campus a place where “Only yes means yes”? Is there a ‘hook-up culture’ on your campus that affects how unwanted sexual assaults may be perceived or reported? To open the discussion about how to communicate consent, see the [“Consent is Sexy”](#) campaign at the University of Georgia or the [Only Yes Means Yes](#) campaign and video from the Woman Abuse Working Group.

IX

Many university administrations do not publish accurate reports on the incidence of sexual assault and rape on their campuses. Do you know how to find out about the number of rapes on your campus this year? The Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool (www.ope.ed.gov/security), created by the U.S. Department of Education, provides a database in which you can look up “sex offenses” by institution. Do you think this number is an accurate representation of sexual assault at your school? Why or why not?