

## Sexual Assault on College Campuses - Discussion Questions

*Through these discussion questions, you can increase awareness of sexual violence on college campuses and encourage those already affected to get the help they deserve.*

- Every two minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. College age women are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted than any other age group, and the majority of rapes are committed by someone who the victim knows. What can we do as a nationwide college community to reduce cases of rape / sexual assault? What can your specific campus do to make sure that rape is NOT a reality for so many young people?
- While you can never completely protect yourself, there are some things you can do to help reduce your risk of experiencing an attack in social situations. What can you and your friends do to reduce your risk of sexual assault {consider topics such as responsible drinking, trusting your instincts and use of a buddy system}? How can you get involved as a college advocate and help others?
- In the immediate aftermath of a sexual assault, the most important thing is for the victim to get to a safe place. When they reach a safe place, it is vital for the victim to receive medical attention, regardless of his or her decision to report the crime to the police. Do you know where to receive medical attention on campus? Do you feel comfortable going to your campus resources in an emergency situation?
- While an attack may last only moments, the effects can last a lifetime. Victims of sexual assault are at elevated risk for mental health effects such as depression, PTSD and substance abuse. What can be done to further visibility of recovery resources on campus and help victims who are experiencing one or many of the possible mental health effects?
- Though the majority of sexual assault victims are women, men are also victims. RAINN recently had several members of its Speakers Bureau on *The Oprah Show* discussing male sexual assault and abuse. How else can this message be disseminated? Should it be a priority message? How can we make men more comfortable speaking out about their experiences with sexual violence?
- Regardless of the fictional nature of certain storylines, portrayals of sexual violence are seen on television and in movies, and may trigger strong memories/emotions for those who have been sexually assaulted. Is this a problem? Do you believe it's beneficial to discuss these issues in pop culture outlets such as TV shows and movies? What are the effects of these images? Are these portrayals so didactic that they can act as a "how to," or are they so horrific that they actually act as a deterrent? Where is the line?

*Continue the conversation online:*

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*If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, recovery resources are available through the National Sexual Assault Hotlines (800.656.HOPE and [online.rainn.org](http://online.rainn.org)). Free. Confidential. 24/7.*