

Thanks DWC! In response to the following question, I received several recommendations which are listed below. As always, I really appreciate your help, Kelly Knight

“I am preparing an informal talk on sexual assault for a sorority. I am wondering if any of you have any specific talking points or suggestions.”

- Ask about Greek life cultural (specific to them) and tie it to rape culture (broader social world)
- Articles:
 - <http://jezebel.com/5779905/usc-frat-guys-email-explains-women-are-targets-not-actual-people-like-us-men>
 -
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/14/university-of-vermont-fraternity_1148585.html
 -
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/15/miami-university-top-ten-ways-to-get-away-with-rape-flier_1966578.html
- Mention that there might be fear of reporting sexual assault perpetrated by another member of the Greek community (a fraternity member, for example) for fear of getting the entire fraternity in trouble or sully the (already [unfairly, in my opinion] blemished) reputation of fraternity men. (Or, alternatively, because of the stereotype that sorority girls are slutty and therefore might be more likely to "cry rape" or to have invited said behavior.) But, it is particularly important for those cases to come to light because turning a blind eye to these events hurts the entire enterprise -- the entire Greek community. I think the system is much better off if it self-governs these behaviors, but it can't do that if people don't speak out.
- Ask the women to reflect upon the tenets of their ritual. All rituals speak on some level to moral character, personal accountability, and setting a positive example for others, especially other women. If you can connect the act of victims reporting/coming forward, and/or of sisters supporting other victims, to the act of living their ritual, that might have more resonance than the usual line that it is just the right thing to do ethically and legally (even though that's true, too).
- Really hit home the concept of bystander intervention, ala the Green Dot program. At the college level, giving permission for people to intervene in the most innocuous and/or small manner, can reap big rewards.
- Include some basic factual information such as most women are raped by someone they know, many rapes happen while one or both people are drinking, legally a person cannot give consent if they are intoxicated or incapacitated by drugs, etc.

- Discuss the issue of victim blaming by women and the subtle ways we blame victims for their assaults (talking poorly about women who are dressed a certain way, being critical of women who drink a lot, etc).
- Discuss the fact that penile-vaginal rape is not the only form of sexual assault. There can be penetration by objects, penetration in other orifices, and acts that do not involve penetration (i.e. the man giving the woman oral sex when she does not want it, the grabbing of breasts and buttocks).
- Explain the reporting process for your campus. Emphasize the importance of immediate reporting to someone in authority so that a rape kit can be completed, particularly if the woman suspects that she was drugged without her knowledge or if the man took advantage of a drunk or drugged state. From a police perspective, this can make or break a case.