

Understanding and Eradicating Rape Culture:

Creating a “Culture of Consent” on the University of Kentucky’s Campus

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Introduction

In recent national news coverage, reports of sexual assault and violence are on the rise. From the numerous allegations against comedian Bill Cosby (Flint and Vranica, 2014) to the work of Columbia University student Emma Sulkowicz to “Carry That Weight” of raising awareness about her own rape on a college campus (Svokos, 2014), stories about sexual crimes are abundant and inescapable. Many lives have been forever altered by the current of objectification, victimization, and harassment of individuals that courses violently throughout the United States today. In fact, some figures state that as many as 1 in 5 women and 1 in 33 men nationally have been the victims of rape. In Kentucky alone, those numbers are even more staggering—1 in 15 men and 1 in 3 women have experienced this type of dehumanizing violence (Caitlin Bentley, personal communication, November 6, 2014). Many are deeming this epidemic a societal propensity toward “rape culture,” a term we have defined, for the purposes of this project and report, as “the societal desensitization and lack of empathy concerning rape and other forms of sexual assault, resulting in social norms that promote and perpetuate the notion that instances of sexual assault are either superfluous and/or exaggerated.”

Here at the University of Kentucky, we have a lot to be proud of. Our Center for Research for Violence Against Women conducted a study in 2007 aimed at collecting statistics about gender-based sexual violence, and our own president, Dr. Eli Capiouto, discussed their work in a national interview on ABC News (Blanton, 2014). However, an area that still desperately needs attention and campus-wide action is the shocking presence of rape culture within our own college community. Many students have already noticed an increased level of gender-based objectification and sexualization with the advent of Yik Yak, an anonymous social media app in which students are able to voice their opinions without consequences. We, like

many other universities across the nation, have a long way to go in combating this issue. We are struggling with the ramifications of an entire societal mindset that neglects the severity of rape and discredits victims everywhere.

In order to motivate positive action towards understanding and eradicating rape culture at the University of Kentucky, our group launched a project aimed at gathering and amplifying student voices on the topic. With the help and support of various stakeholders around campus and Lexington, we assembled an issue book (see *Appendix A*) that guided conversation at five different deliberative forums across campus and aggregated student opinions on three potential solutions to move us toward a “culture of consent.” The three solutions considered were broadly titled: “Promotion of Discussion and Self-Ownership,” “Increased Funding for Consciousness-raising Programs,” and “Administrative Action.” The goal in creating these three distinct proposals was to draft solutions that held different groups responsible for initiating action on campus (students, extracurricular programs, or administration, respectively). Student responsiveness, or lack thereof, toward each of these ideas was used as a measure of where the responsibility truly lies in shifting negative mindsets at UK.

Methods

Part 1: Creation of Issue Guide

Before conducting forums on the issue, an issue guide was compiled which described the problem, provided statistics, and explained in detail each of the three proposed solutions. However, before beginning work on the issue guide, various stakeholders were contacted, such as the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center, President Capilouto and researchers from the department of Gender and Women’s Studies. These

stakeholders were contacted because they were considered to carry important roles in eradicating rape culture, counseling victims, or taking preventative measures on campus and throughout the city of Lexington. They provided various pieces of information regarding their efforts, as well as many statistics on the issue, which were very shocking to many participants in the forums (see *Introduction*). Also, some stakeholders made referrals to other University of Kentucky or Lexington organizations, and showed interest, cooperation, and passion for the issue and for this project.

The final issue guide (See *Appendix A*), created using information gathered from stakeholder meetings, contains the following sections:

- (a) **Introduction:** The introduction is a simple description of the issue at hand and the specific definition given to it: “both the societal desensitization and lack of empathy concerning rape and other forms of sexual assault, resulting in social norms that promote and perpetuate the notion that instances of sexual assault are either superfluous and/or exaggerated.” Also within this section is the definition of affirmative consent, which was presented to students at each forum. Affirmative consent is a modern, progressive definition of consent, which has recently been written into university bylaws across the country.
- (b) **Solution 1: Promotion of Discussion and Self-Ownership:** This solution is based entirely on word-of-mouth education and accountability. It proposes to educate the general public with new definitions of consent and masculinity, a focus on revising gender norms, and sensitization to words like “rape” when used with improper context.
- (c) **Solution 2: Increased Funding for Consciousness-Raising Programs:** This solution is based on a heavier reliance on consciousness and awareness-raising programs like the Violence Intervention and Prevention center and OUTsource. This solution proposes to improve their

functions and efforts by increasing funding, therefore increasing awareness of the issue on campus. Furthermore, it suggests a video contest in which participating groups or organizations would create an awareness-raising video, with a winner being broadcasted throughout campus.

(d) **Solution 3: Administrative Action:** This solution relies on specific actions taken by the University administration that would combat rape culture on campus. For example, the University would be encouraged to adopt Affirmative Consent into its by-laws and rules regarding sexual assault. The University would also be asked to publicize and enforce its stance on rape and sexual assault, portraying it as a felonious offense punishable by jail time and expulsion from the University. Finally, this solution recommends the addition of an awareness raising educational curriculum to UK 101 courses.

(e) **Questionnaire:** The questionnaire concludes the issue guide by presenting a series of questions to forum participants after the completion of each forum. It inquires about the participants' views on rape culture on campus and whether or not those views have changed as a result of the forum. At our forums, we distributed questionnaires to each participant. We then collected and analyzed the responses on these surveys to create a data pool that could be used as a means of evaluating forum effectiveness.

Part 2: Issue Forums

At least two group members facilitated each forum, with one person taking notes. At the beginning of the forum, disclaimers were mentioned and resources given. After this, a “fishbone” diagram was made and explained (See *Appendix B*). A fishbone diagram is a way of organizing the thoughts of the participants onto branches which are sorted and categorized by discussion participants.

After this, we discussed each idea represented on the diagram as a means of transitioning into the deliberation over solutions. Before the discussion of solutions, the participants took a few minutes to read each option written within the issue guide. Once discussion began, participants elaborated on the pros and cons to each solution, as they saw them.

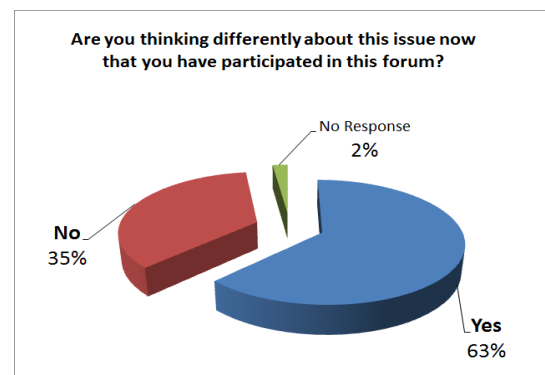
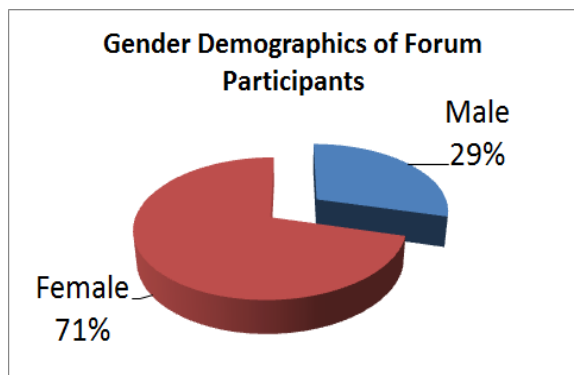
After all options were discussed, the participants voted on which option they felt was best for the University, and their votes were counted and recorded. The participants also completed a questionnaire detailing their opinions on rape culture and whether or not those opinions had changed over the course of the discussion. The questionnaire results and votes were anonymous.

Results of Forums

After hosting five forums with various groups of students, questionnaires were completed and collected, yielding the following results. Notable statistics are shown in graphic form below, followed by a complete display of data.

Graphic Representations

Graphs of responses to two of the most important breakdowns from the forums are displayed below. The first shows the male to female split among forum participants and the second shows the percentage of individuals who reported a change in mindset as a direct result of attending these discussions.



Results from Question Sets

Question Set 1

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
a. The best way to raise awareness for an issue is by going from the top down—having leaders of groups create initiatives to inspire change.	15*	26	6	1	0
b. As a member of a campus community, it is your duty to create positive change on campus.	41	7	0	0	0
c. Women are the only gender with a vested interest in combating rape culture.	0	3	6	38	1
d. It is not the responsibility of Universities to combat rape culture.	2	4	6	35	1
e. By teaching people not to use vocabulary that could be considered desensitizing, people are able to more accurately view the issue of rape culture as a whole.	32	12	1	2	1
f. Campus organizations do an adequate job of informing people about the issues for or against which they stand.	0	20	20	5	3
g. Rape culture is an issue that merits attention.	44	3	1	0	0

*For every numeric value in this and subsequent charts, 1 is equivalent to 1 participant

responding affirmatively to each of the respective options.

Question Set 2

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
a. Men and women have an equal share in the fight against rape culture.	33	9	5	1	0
b. When combatting change, it is important to begin from the bottom—having small groups spread ideas.	16	24	7	0	1
c. The vocabulary that people use in everyday life doesn't affect their perception of issues as a whole.	1	4	9	32	2
d. Universities have a vested interest in combating rape culture—specifically on their own campus.	22	13	10	3	0
e. It is not the job of the students on a campus to combat rape culture.	0	1	5	41	1
f. Rape culture is not an issue that merits attention on this level.	1	0	2	44	1

g. Campus organizations could do a better job of informing the college community about the issues they care about.	28	19	1	0	0
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Post-Forum Changes in Opinion

	Yes	No	No Response
Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in this forum?	30	17	1
In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issues you hadn't considered before?	33	14	1

Demographics

Have you ever attended a forum on the subject? Yes: **13** No: **35**

How many other forums attended: 1-3: **10** 4-6: **3**

Are you male or female? Male: **14** Female: **34**

How old are you? 18-30: **48**

Are you: White: **38**

African American: **3** Hispanic or Latino: **1** Asian American: **3**

Native American: **0** Mixed-Race: **1** Other: **2**

Educational Level completed: High School: **44**

Four-year college or university: **2**

Two-year College: **1**

Are you currently: A student at a two-or-four-year college or university: **47**

On the faculty of a two-or-four-year college or university: **0**

Both: **1**

Short Answer Responses

Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum?

If yes, how? (among participants who responded “yes”)

- We can't wait for something to happen to start a movement
- Yes, I now realize the amount of work it will take to eradicate rape culture
- I think stronger punishments would push the issue in a stronger and more impactful direction
- I now see it as a real issue
- The issue is much more real now. This is something I'd definitely want to get behind. I'd like to learn more.
- I'm glad the members of the UK community are taking steps to raise awareness of rape culture

- Yes, how to actively fight against rape culture at my own level
- I have seen the various options that are available and/or in motion
- I just feel more informed about the rate at which things like this are happening in our community
- Now I can see more feasible solutions - which is exciting!
- The forum mostly reaffirmed my opinions about rape culture & affecting change
- Yes, new ideas were discovered tonight that I did not know about
- Addressing administration
- I hadn't realized the degree to which our culture has been desensitized to rape/sexual assault
- Before, I recognized that rape culture was an issue but I never tried to think of how I could cause change
- Yes, I have gained more info on how to impact this issue on a policy level
- Before, I didn't put much stock into the use of the word "rape," but now that it has been framed as kin to "retarded" or "gay," its eradication makes sense
- I didn't know what rape culture was
- I strongly believe this in an important issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible!
- We need to encourage both leaders and followers to engage in this movement
- More realistic solutions. What actions I can personally take
- I see it in a more detailed perspective
- I feel more strongly rooted in what I previously thought because I know others care as well

- Yes, I never previously thought about how our words can desensitize a topic to such an extreme, and now agree that the word “rape” should not be taken lightly (w/ test, etc.)
- I did not realize that rape culture can be just as bad as rape. I also did not realize how little the University of Kentucky does to promote rape culture awareness
- Yes. I like the yes means yes aspect
- I can see its effects on men and women, not just women
- I see how multifaceted the issue is and how we need to attack it from many different sides
- I feel an obligation to do/help more
- Yes, with each new discussion there are new perspectives that can enhance my understanding of this issue

In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn’t considered before?

(among participants who responded “yes”)

- I did get new perspectives that crossed cultures, genders, and socioeconomic statuses
- I really liked the idea of taking ownership of our vocabulary and how we think in general and this being the basis of change
- Top to bottom approaches vs. “bros”
- Almost everything! Especially about just using the phrase “rape” in our culture
- Yes, there were quite a few opinions and stereotypical ideals that I had not heard before
- Yes!! Affecting change on the administrative level
- Yes. The idea of porn on the fish [bone diagram] was something I honestly had not thought had to do with rape culture. Gives me something to think about

- The fact that so much of our culture is ignorant to what is occurring
- I had not considered how misinformed people can be in our generation
- Administrative action. I never thought about required courses being taken to make people talk about it. I feel like that could really help spread the word
- Yes, pretty much everything
- Self-ownership/vocabulary
- Yes. Spoke of circumstances and consequences I previously didn't consider.
- Yes. I did not really consider the effects of using everyday words as contributing to rape culture
- Yes, funding options
- Yes, funding, everyday leadership, how to stop this on a personal level
- Solutions. It's funny (not really funny...) that solutions aren't talked about
- The causes of rape culture were discussed
- See above; men and women
- Yes, yes means yes, and the new consent definition
- I had not considered that women who are actually raped might not confront their rape. They won't go public for fear of repercussions
- Yes. We talked about rape victims being "survivors" much like people who have overcome illness. I never thought of that before, but it's true
- We spoke about other words that aren't used anymore because of campaigns against them that I'd never heard before
- Considered effects of words and generalizations of roles/social groups
- Administration, gender ambiguity. Men who pledge against the culture

- I often forget that males are also raped instead of it being solely women getting raped
- Again, how to combine rape culture education into the classroom setting
- There were some interesting/thought-provoking comments about how these feelings/thoughts are learned from/in childhood
- Yes, media portrayals, and how using the word “rape” as an adjective affects the culture and those around us
- I hadn’t known exactly the reach or how prevalent it was (as in, to the extent that it is)
- Obviously [I] was wholly unaware

What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as a result of this forum?

- Be more aware
- Respect others and advocate for their rights
- Be quick to empathize. Learn to consider. Try on a new pair of shoes.
- Talk more
- In my community, people can get informed on gender roles and how it contributes to rape culture
- Begin the conversation about rape
- Start spreading and raising awareness
- Advocate for changed culture
- Realize that this is a real issue that people should talk about. Hopefully people will eventually be comfortable with talking about these issues.
- Be more consistent in policing their own actions/words, educate others more often

- Take action!!
- Start talking to friends about how “rape” terms are desensitized
- Take more direct action to address the cultural norms surrounding this issue
- Affect change on a more personal level policing own words & correcting others’ mistakes
- Talk to friends, don’t be afraid to share this & talk about rape
- The way rape is addressed
- They can just try & help raise awareness of how serious this issue is.
- Raise awareness by word of mouth, interpersonally
- I hope people think before they make light of this serious issue
- How to talk about this issue
- I hope people will reconsider using the word “rape” as a synonym of “defeat”
- Hopefully move to combat and prevent the situations that could lead to rape, as well as use it less in colloquial language
- Make sure that people in our dorms are aware of the phrases/actions they say/do and how that affects the rape culture/perception
- Be more aware of vocabulary
- Don’t hesitate to spread the word to end rape culture
- People might talk about it more to their friends, at least people who were here
- Take initiative to spread information on the aspects of rape culture
- Make people aware that this issues is real and not a joke. Stats are jarring and stick with me personally
- Start the conversation with friends...grassroots campaign

- Begin to change the usage of the word rape so we are not desensitized
- Be more openly passionate; advocate aloud for that which they believe
- Talk about it more! Spread the word and tell others to educate them. Share personal feelings to try and combat the assumptions of gender roles/social norms. Encourage acceptance (NO VICTIM BLAMING) and support
- Stop saying the word “rape” in a passive way
- People now may recognize that rape is a topic that is NOT just for women to combat
- The simplest thing people can stop doing is using the word “rape” in the context of tests, video games, sporting events, etc. to combat desensitization
- They could become active in their community once they realize how bad rape culture is. No matter how small, they should still take a part of fighting rape culture
- View the issue with a new perspective
- Look at the issue more closely and change how they act
- Talk to their friends on their values and vocabulary
- They may gain confidence to report rape and encourage correct usage of the word. Also, additional note, maybe spend a bit more time defining what constitutes rape culture. We defined rape, but only talked about catcalling as part of rape culture. Also, we talked about campus solutions, but perhaps we could dedicate a small portion of the forum to see how we could address the causes we specifically listed on the bone fish chart.
- Be more engaged in rape culture
- I think the community will be more informed about this topic, and can handle discussion or situation regarding this topic

Discussion

Trends

General demographic and education trends from the questionnaires was as follows:

1. Strong majority of the participants were women (71%)
2. Majority of the participants had opinions change as a result of the forum (63%)
3. Strong majority of the participants discussed topics they previously had not (69%)
4. Strong majority of the participants had not attended a forum on rape culture before (73%)
5. 100% of participants were 18-30 years old
6. Strong majority of the participants were white (72%)
7. Strong majority of the participants had high school as their present highest level of education completed (92%)

Results from both question sets on the questionnaire indicated that students agreed on 6 of the 7 questions asked. The majority of students:

1. Supported top down leadership
2. Supported self-ownership
3. Recognized rape culture as an issue that both men and women had to combat
4. Believed the University had a responsibility to combat rape culture
5. Supported education on harmful vocabulary
6. Believed that rape culture was an issue meriting attention at this level

The only question that received mixed results was in reference to campus organizations and whether or not they adequately spread awareness. The results of this statement that “Campus organizations do an adequate job of informing people about the issues for, or against which they stand” (Question 7, Question Set 1) are displayed below.

0 Strongly Agree | 20 Agree | 20 Disagree | 5 Strongly Disagree | 3 Not Sure

There was an almost even split in reference to whether or not campus organizations do an adequate job of informing people about issues for or against which they stand. The statement “Campus organizations could do a better job of informing the college community about the issues they care about” (Question 7, Question Set 2) garnered heavily one-sided results:

28 Strongly Agree | 19 Agree | 1 Disagree | 0 Strongly Disagree | 0 Not Sure

From this data, one sees that the majority of participants believed campus organizations did an adequate job of informing people about issues for or against which they stand. However, a majority also felt that organizations needed to do a better job of informing the college community. Although some may assert that student opinions on this issue are unreliable due to the contrasting results, we believe this is not the case here. The rationale behind these contradicting data may result from the inability of this question pair to present a clear dichotomy; neither question is mutually exclusive. Though students are happy with the work organizations are already doing, they recognize that these same groups still have a ways to go in combating issues like rape culture.

Looking at responses to the short-answer questions provides even more striking data to analyze. Question one asked participants: “Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum? If yes, how?” The 38 participants who responded ‘yes’, gave a compilation of responses that indicated their views on rape culture had significantly changed. Many expressed ignorance towards the issue before, but newfound appreciation of its depths after discussing it in detail. The responses display a strong acknowledgment and acceptance of this issue with an even stronger overarching sentiment of longing for reform.

The second question asked: “In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn’t considered before?” The 33 ‘yes’ respondents indicated that the forums gave them a new perspective on several different aspects of the issue. Key terms common to many responses are:

- “New perspectives”
- “gives me something to think about”
- “so much of our culture is ignorant to what is occurring”
- “ “rape victims [are] survivors”
- “new consent definition”
- “I often forget that males are also raped”
- “Taking ownership” as a part in the process
- “top to bottom approach” as a potential solution
- The necessity of “every day leadership”
- The potential role for “administrative action”

These keywords are indicative of a general trend seen across participant responses. Many individuals reported feeling as though their peers and other members of their community were unaware of rape culture and its effects on society. As evident in the survey results, the majority

of students claimed to have discussed topics they had not considered previously and to have experienced a change in opinion as a result of these forums.

The third question asked: “What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as a result of this forum?” Some of the most common responses were:

- “be more aware”
- “respect others”
- “informed”
- “talk more”
- “be more engaged”
- “advocate”
- “begin the conversation”
- “take action”
- Start on a “personal level”
- “start talking to friends”
- “in the dorm”
- Change “vocabulary”
- Use a “grassroots campaign”

From these suggestions, one sees that the most frequently referenced course of action involved a utilization of personal relationships to change vocabulary and promote further engagement and awareness with the issue. The active vocabulary also demonstrates that students wish to be change agents actively involved in breaking down the campus-wide expressions of rape culture.

Study Limitations and Possible Improvements

While forums were open to all UK students, faculty, and staff, only UK members with direct ties to forum facilitators were present at these forums. While several majors and colleges were represented, the sample sizes for these forums were not random, were somewhat small, did not accurately represent the University, and varied in number per forum. In order to gather more accurate information concerning campus-wide opinions on rape culture solutions, it is recommended that further data be obtained utilizing a larger number of forums with more consistent participant sizes and randomly sampled participants; it is projected that, with these improvements, the results would possess a more accurate demographic representation of the University.

Conclusion

It is apparent that students preferred a combination of solutions rather than one sole plan of action after analyzing the complex comments and responses from participants. That being said, an overwhelming majority of students supported Solution 1: Promotion of Discussion and Self-Ownership and Solution 3: Administrative Action as they were, but went further in suggesting a marriage of the two. The rationale behind this blending can be attributed to two main notions: (1) that social change occurs best when peers communicate with peers and (2) that administrative action tends to produce longer-lasting results (for example, the changing of the definition of “consent”). On the whole, student comments revealed that participants found the forums to be informative, and these results suggest that the deliberations should also be used as tools in and of themselves to help spread awareness. In summary, forums concerning “Understanding and Eradicating Rape Culture” proved not only to educate and inform here at the

University of Kentucky, but also demonstrated their usefulness in challenging and inspiring people across this community, and beyond. As we progress in the fight against outdated ideas and harmful perceptions of victims of rape, increased discussion will not only be helpful, but necessary. The fruits of our very own deliberations were an entire collection of individual responses that illustrated students' desire for change and action. We see that community members at all levels need to be involved in the move towards a culture of consent, and that is an aim we will strive towards as we progress as students here at UK.

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Appendix A: Issue Guide

In the following pages is the complete Issue Guide that we presented to students at the forums.

Students were given time to read through these booklets before, during, and after each deliberation.

Issue Guide



Understanding and Eradicating Rape Culture

Creating a “culture of consent” on the University of Kentucky’s campus

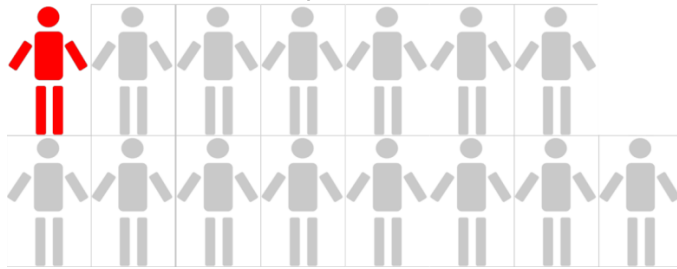
We believe that the issue of rape culture is both understated and ubiquitous, resulting in a higher number of sexual assaults. Rape culture and the increase in incidents both stem from societal norms that lessen the severity of this issue. That being said, our definition of rape culture is: *both the societal desensitization and lack of empathy concerning rape and other forms of sexual assault, resulting in social norms that promote and perpetuate the notion that instances of sexual assault are either superfluous and/or exaggerated.*

THE STATISTICS

Nationally, **1** in **33** men are raped

Nationally, **1** in **5** women are raped

In Kentucky, **1** in **15** men are raped



In Kentucky, **1** in **3** women are raped¹

¹ Statistics given by the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center in an interview on 11/06/2014.

OPTION ONE

Promotion of discussion and self-ownership

The responsibility in regard to combating rape culture lies with each member of the campus community. Following this idea, the most effective way to combat rape culture is to promote discussion in the campus community on its effects on them and the greater world community. This can be done through social media campaigns, word of mouth, and other self-promoted means. To do this, it is necessary to redefine consent to be affirmative consent, discuss misconceptions about masculinity, combat victim blaming, reimagine gender norms, and discourage the use of defamatory vocabulary.

- Affirmative Consent, under this solution (and every solution thereafter), would be defined in accordance to the California Senate Bill 967, which states: “Affirmative, conscious and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. It is the responsibility of each person involved in the sexual activity to ensure that he or she has the affirmative consent of the other or others to engage in the sexual activity. Lack of protest or resistance does not mean consent nor does silence mean consent. Affirmative consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual activity, and can be revoked at any time” (De Leon).
- Masculinity needs to be reexamined as a whole and redefined as something that is not inherently violent. Further, through this, we must combat victim blaming. Instead of the normal questions asked after a rape being “what was she wearing?” or “was she drunk?” the question needs to be “what made him think that this is acceptable?”
 - However, it must be acknowledged that rape is not exclusively a product of male oppression of women; all genders can be and often are victims of rape and must be considered as well.
- Gender norms must be reimaged to consider both genders equal, both socially and under the law. Male dominance and female submission can no longer be considered a universal truth in regard to how rape and consent are defined.
- Vocabulary must be changed in order to sensitize us to the issue of rape and rape culture, as well as its repercussions and the subsequent perpetuation of this problem. Similar to the 'End the Word' campaign, which created a more sensitive lexicon for referring to those with mental disabilities, we must discourage the use of the term “rape” when utilized in casual conversation when not referring to the act itself (e.g., “That test just raped me.”). Further, we must encourage citizens to speak out about the use of such language casually in order to combat the complacency of its place in the public subconscious.

THE SOLUTION IN ACTION

What it allows us to do...	Critics might say...
Promote conversation amidst the student body about the inherent prevalence of rape culture on campus and what can be done about it.	This could take away necessary attention from other potential wicked issues that need to be addressed.
Redefine stereotypical perceptions of masculinity and gender norms.	Attempting to redefine these perceptions would be difficult in spheres in which these stereotypes have been cognitively reinforced.
Bring awareness towards the use of defamatory vocabulary in general social settings.	This only yields awareness of the use of language and subsequent discouragement. Ultimately, if individuals chose to continue the use of such language, the sense of accountability attempted to be instilled will be lost.

OPTION TWO

Increased funding for consciousness-raising programs

The responsibility for combating rape culture lies with the social and extracurricular organizations that work to raise awareness about the issue on campus. The lack of awareness about rape culture and the issues contributing to its perpetuation is a major obstacle here at the University of Kentucky. To counter this, increased funding should be provided to extracurricular organizations and programs that provide education about issues surrounding rape culture. Also, an awareness campaign should be launched to promote discussion about the issue.





The Programs We Would Fund

This option focuses on improved education and awareness by non-administrative organizations on campus. The first of these is the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center (VIP). The VIP Center works toward “eliminating the perpetration of interpersonal violence including sexual assault, partner violence, and stalking.” (“The Mission of the VIP Center”) Its primary operation is Green Dot training, a training which defines interpersonal violence and encourages trainees to intervene in potential situations of partner violence. The VIP Center focuses on domestic abuse and sexual assault, which, while not having the same definition as rape, is certainly related. Increased funding to the VIP Center would allow it to expand Green Dot training as well as on-campus advertising to increase awareness about itself.

CATalyst is a diversity peer education group on campus that aims to “make difficult conversations about difference a safe experience” that occurs across campus (“About UK CATalyst”). They provide student organizations and classes with workshops on topics ranging from leading diverse groups to understanding the gender spectrum. Because of their focus in breaking gender norms and the tendency towards gender policing, CATalyst has an integral role to play in upending a lot of the stereotypes that play into rape culture.

Another organization on campus that deals with these kinds of issues is OUTsource. This is a huge resource for students who identify themselves as GLBTQQA, and is confidential. OUTsource provides access to academic information about sexuality, gender identities, and other related topics. They “aim to change the campus climate and culture to become more inclusive of GLBTQQA students by embracing diversity” (“LGBT Campus Resources: OUTsource”).

The Awareness Campaign

This solution would use a portion of the increased funding to produce an awareness campaign focusing on the use and discussion of the word “rape.” Currently, discussion of rape is widely considered taboo and hidden away. The campaign would follow a similar structure to the “Spread the Word to End the Word” campaign, which has had visible success in eradicating a particularly offensive term from the vocabulary of young people. This proposed campaign would seek to have the opposite effect, encouraging people to discuss rape openly rather than consider it too inappropriate to address.

One specific portion of this awareness campaign would be a campus-wide video contest between any willingly participating groups or organizations. Each would be tasked to create a short video describing the campaign and why rape should be a more widely discussed issue. A winner would be selected, and the winning video would be distributed and presented across campus in order to raise awareness about the issue, promoting the campaign and hopefully playing a role in changing societal views of rape culture.

THE SOLUTION IN ACTION

What it allows us to do...	Critics might say...
<p>Have more programming aimed at challenging current norms about gender, interpersonal violence, and consent.</p>	<p>Increased funding to these specific programs takes away revenue from other important organizations on campus at a time in which the budget of administration is pretty tight.</p>
<p>Increase support and flexibility for the staff of these programs to create new systems of operation--like having peer educators in the VIP Center.</p>	<p>The benefits and impacts of these programs are hard to measure. How will we know we're not just throwing money at something that doesn't reduce rape culture?</p>
<p>Potentially fund student jobs in these programs, increasing the tie between issue-based organizations and the student body.</p>	<p>It is difficult to decide which programs are explicitly related to eradicating rape culture. Funding some may discourage others from working on the issue too.</p>

OPTION THREE

Administrative Action

The responsibility for combating rape culture on campus lies with the administration, which has the authoritative power to mandate change. **Education** is arguably the most effective tool employed by administration to change societal perceptions of rape culture and sexual assault; however, the methods by which this **education** may be implemented vary. We propose administrative action be used to ensure that education on the issue of rape culture is not only provided, but is also required of UK students, staff, faculty, and all other members of the UK Community.

While education about rape culture is most likely the best method for lessening its grip on culture, the method by which this education is brought about can vary. The method that is most likely to persist would be the use of administrative action which ensures that education is not only provided, but required, for all members of the UK community.

Application and Implementation

This option would include administrative action that requires UK 101 classes to include attendance to a rape culture education workshop and report in their syllabi. This option would also include requiring all staff and faculty to attend/ complete some kind of educational rape culture workshop as well. In addition, the definition of “consent” as stated by the University of Kentucky bylaws would be visited and redefined if necessary, then made more public to increase awareness.

THE SOLUTION IN ACTION

What it allows us to do.....	Critics might say.....
Have a definitive training for every member of the UK community that ensures everyone receives consistent information.	A program of this magnitude would be too broad, resulting in overgeneralized training without any applicable change.
This ensures that every student, staff, and faculty member must be exposed to this information at least once.	Adding another "requirement" may feel laborious, possibly creating a sense of resentment.
Everyone in the UK community is trained, including faculty and staff.	Students telling faculty that they need trainings might not go over well with staff/faculty.

RESOURCES

If you or anyone that you know is dealing with the consequences of rape, sexual assault, harassment, or any other type of interpersonal violence, there are many resources on campus and in Lexington available to you. The centers and points of contact we recommend are:

- **The Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Center**
 - Location: Lower Level of Frazee Hall
 - Hours: M-F 8:30-5:00 pm
 - Phone: (859) 257-3574
- **The University of Kentucky Counseling Center**
 - Location: 2nd and 3rd floors of Frazee Hall
 - Hours: M-F 8:00-4:30
 - Phone: (859) 257-8701
- **Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center**
 - Crisis Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
 - Hotline is open 24hr/day
 - Call to schedule counseling appointments, as well

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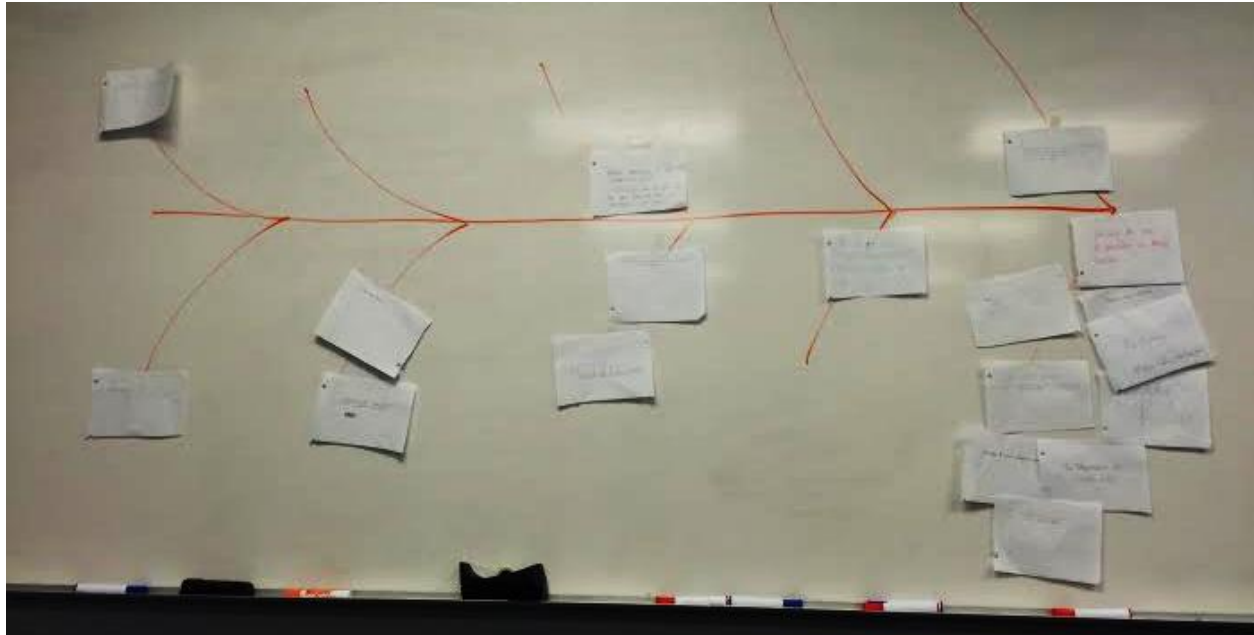
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Appendix B: Sample Fishbone Diagram



A fishbone diagram constructed in one of our five forums. Tape was used to attach student responses along the “bones” of the “fish”.