

TIPS FOR TALKING ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CLASS

- Know your reporting obligations—and clearly/proactively communicate them to your students. If you are unsure of what these are, check the website for your school's Title IX office.
- Be well aware of your campus resources and proactively refer students to them. A good start is to stop by your school's sexual violence resource center and ask for some brochures so that you can (1) educate yourself about their services and also (2) keep them in your office to share with students if the need arises.
- Remember that you're talking about people's actual lived experiences. Do not, under any circumstances, try to "lighten the mood" by making a joke and speak every word as if you are speaking to a victim of a violent crime. (In all likelihood, you are. You just don't know who they are, specifically, when looking out at your entire class.)
- Remember that sexual violence affects everyone: women, men, trans/non-binary folks, etc. If you are not talking about a very specific example, use gender-neutral pronouns!
- Try to end the discussion of each example on some kind of positive/hopeful note. Share something that reflects the capacity for human goodness and explicitly convey to your students that, in their own way, they are each capable of contributing to it. You may also choose to provide a practical tip or take-away that students can use in their every day lives thanks to their newfound knowledge of the course content.
- Finally, remember that "Sexual violence is bad. Please do not do it and also maybe try to prevent it." is not a ~political opinion~. It is a moral imperative.

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