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So What, Now What? Using Social Media Activism to Inform Power-Conscious Prevention of Gender-Based Violence

Abstract

We will not end gender-based violence by responding to it. Experts and national organizations agree that effective primary prevention programs are essential to stopping harmful behaviors before they start (DeGue et al, 2014; American College Health Association, 2016; American College Health Association, 2018; Townsend, 2017; Schneider & Hirsch, 2018; McMahon et al, 2019), so much so that primary prevention to address gender-based violence on college campuses has been mandated by state and federal policy (SB 19-007, 2019; Institutional Security Policies and Crime Statistics, 2020). In order to be effective, primary prevention programs should be tailored to the community in which they will be implemented (Banyard, 2011; Banyard, 2013; Banyard, 2014; Townsend, 2017; American College Health Association, 2018). Addressing the root cause of gender-based violence perpetration (power) is essential to developing an effective primary prevention curriculum (Harris, 2017; Hong, 2017; Linder, 2018). One university sought out to develop a comprehensive prevention program to address the root cause of GBV perpetration. Therefore, the purpose of this doctoral research project was to uncover: What is the nature of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University?

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So What, Now What?
Using Social Media Activism to Inform
Power-Conscious Prevention of Gender-Based Violence

A Dissertation in Practice

Presented to
the Faculty of the Morgridge College of Education
University of Denver

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Doctor of Education

by

Andrea R. Thyrring

June 2021

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Advisor: Dr. Paul Michalec
Degree Date: June 2021

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Content Statement

This doctoral research project includes discussions of gender-based violence, specifically sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment. It includes first-hand narratives of gender-based violence, statistics about perpetration prevalence, and descriptions of the impact of gender-based violence on individuals and communities. I believe it is my professional responsibility to provide this brief overview, should this topic be activating or personally impactful to the reader. As demonstrated by the statistics shared within these pages, gender-based violence affects a large portion of our local and national communities. I encourage the reader to practice self-care while reading.

Language and Explanations

The following table provides a meaningful introduction to words, phrases, and abbreviations used within this doctoral research project. It is not intended to be an exhaustive dictionary; instead, it introduces the reader to terms they may encounter prior to reading a more detailed explanation further within the different sections of this research project.

Abbreviation or Term	Definition
Downtown University	Pseudonym for site of research
The University	Shortened phrase to reference Downtown University
@BetterDowntown University	Pseudonym for activist Instagram account (source of data for research)
Gender-based violence	An umbrella term to describe sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating/domestic abuse, and stalking. The violence is not contingent solely upon a person's gender, as sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating/domestic abuse, and stalking are an expression of power. It is the phrase most commonly used at Downtown University; a more detailed explanation can be found in "Defining Gender-Based Violence" in Chapter 2.
GBV	Abbreviation for gender-based violence
Perpetrator	A person who perpetrates or carries out gender-based violence. A perpetrator can be someone of any gender or identity.
Victim/survivor	Someone who has endured gender-based violence perpetration. Anyone can be a survivor or victim, and it is up to the person to decide if they would like to be called a survivor or victim. I use victim/survivor to respect the autonomy of the person targeted by a perpetrator to decide what they would like to be called.
Primary survivor	Someone who was the target of gender-based violence perpetration. This is a phrase used among people who

	work with victims/survivors; I have not seen victim used in this phrase and as such, simply use survivor.
Secondary survivor	Someone close to the target of gender-based violence perpetration. This is a phrase used among people who work with victims/survivors; I have not seen victim used in this phrase and as such, simply use survivor.
Primary prevention	Prevention that occurs before a harmful act, like perpetration, takes place.
Secondary prevention	Prevention that occurs immediately following a harmful act, like perpetration, to prevent further harm from occurring.
Tertiary prevention	Prevention of the lasting impact of harm; can include social supports and ongoing care for the harmed party(ies).
Power	The means to control or influence the life or lives of others. It is something people possess, practice, and enjoy because of structural and systemic advantages. Power is socially constructed.
Power-conscious	Centering thoughts of power and its implications to remain aware of the effects of power and resulting oppression; maintaining the awareness that power is present in all beliefs, spaces, and interactions.
Critical reflexivity	The ongoing, iterative process of critical interrogation of one's own thoughts, beliefs, and actions - both conscious and unconscious.
Social construct/socially constructed	A belief that a society has consciously or unconsciously agreed upon. It usually has no existence or bearing outside of human understanding and is informed by power.
Minoritized	Describes populations and people who have been harmed by systems of oppression; made a minority, or less than dominant identities.
Marginalized	Describes populations and people who have been harmed by systems of oppression; moved to the margins, removed from or refused central focus.

System(s) of oppression	The interconnected beliefs, practices, and historical contexts that marginalize and minoritize people with certain identities.
White supremacy	The assumed belief that Whiteness is the norm and the standard by which all else is measured. While White supremacy can be an extreme terrorist belief, it is also an everyday practice that is baked into the culture of the United States and therefore, by extension, higher education.
Patriarchy	The cultural belief that assigns men and masculinity the most social power.
Colonization	The forceful act of taking control of another group's resources including land and access to food and water; the belief that one is entitled to these resources; and the harmful erasure of the Indigenous people's culture and way of life. Colonization is an expression of power and the establishment of a system of oppression.
Capitalism	The financial practice of prioritizing production and profit over a person or group of people's wellbeing. Capitalism thrives within, and exacerbates the negative qualities of, systems of oppression.
Colonialism	The political practice of taking control over another land, occupying it, and using its natural resources for profit at the expense of the land's Indigenous people.
Gender-expansive	Someone whose gender expands upon the accepted binary of man and woman. Can include genders such as agender, gender-queer, trans, nonbinary, two-spirit; the options for gender expression are limitless.

How we use this language matters. Historically when data and statistics about GBV are shared, researchers and writers have used the passive voice (Henley, Miller, & Beazley, 1995; Bohner, 2002). See for example the following statistic: one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college (NSVRC, 2015; Muehlenhard et al, 2017). A perpetrator is not identified in that statement. Instead, the

sexual violence seems to just happen to the victims. This is because research and reporting about campus-based gender-based violence (and GBV as a whole) has unintentionally ignored and perpetuated power in research practices and in the dynamics of GBV (Linder, Grimes, Williams, Lacy, & Parker, 2020); they have placed the focus of the problem on the victim. This leads to an increased acceptance of violence-supportive and victim-blaming attitudes (Henley, Miller, & Beazley, 1995; Bohner, 2002). In order to clearly name the power dynamics present in GBV, an active voice should be used where the actor (the perpetrator) is responsible for the action described (perpetration). Throughout this research project, you will see statistics reflected in a power-conscious tone.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Research Context

This research proposal begins with contextualization of the research project in order to orient the reader to my own practices and identities. In this section, I include an overview of a core practice, critical reflexivity, that shapes my work. Following this statement of practice, I provide insight to influencing social and environmental conditions present at the time of the research project, as well as information about my background that frames the research project.

Critical Reflexivity

Liberation for students requires that educators commit to authenticity and self-actualization in their own work (hooks, 1994). This commitment to authenticity and self-actualization can also be called critical reflexivity. Described by Strega and Brown (2015), critical reflexivity is

“an approach to reflection that focuses primarily on the politics and ideologies embedded within research processes and within the self of the researcher. It requires that we intentionally, consciously, and repeatedly bring our awareness to the question of what influences our perceptions, conceptions, and responses,” (p. 8).

The authors state that White supremacy and its resulting processes of colonization and colonialism, capitalism, and patriarchy are the ideologies that most influence researchers. By understanding dominant ideologies, we can begin to see how they are woven into what we believe to be the realities of our world and ourselves.

Critical reflexivity echoes the tenets of Linder's (2018) power-conscious framework, which is discussed in the Research Frameworks section. This concept aligned with my conceptual framework and was a compliment to my research process.

Critical reflexivity is a process, not only a singular event (Strega and Brown, 2015). Simply stating here that I, the researcher, upheld this practice is not enough. Therefore, throughout this research project, I commit to interrogating my own assumptions of power and identity, as well as my relationship to dominant ideologies. In the coming section, Researcher Background, I speak to my background and identities that influence both performance of the research as well as my understanding of the data collected. Though it may be uncomfortable, I commit to highlighting critical truths about my practice, research, and process. I commit to doing my best to critically interrogate my work to identify limitations and opportunities for improved work in the future. Strega and Brown (2015) encourage the critical researcher to "never ask questions of others that [they] are not willing to answer and share [themselves]," (p.28). Throughout this doctoral research project, I did my best to hold myself to this practice, and invited suggestions for improvement.

Social and Environmental Conditions

Understanding the unique conditions of the social and environmental context in which research is performed is important to understanding the broader influences and implications for that research (Strega & Brown, 2015). The global pandemic COVID-19, release of the new Title IX regulations, change in University staff, and student social justice actions influenced the environment in which this research took place.

When this doctoral research project was first drafted in December 2020, 250,000 Americans had died from COVID-19 (see https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days). At Downtown University, the positivity rate was just over 6%; in the surrounding area, the positivity rate was at 11%. The University had been at a moderate to high level of risk of COVID-19 transmission; the number of cases reported on campus had increased and was expected to increase in coming days. The University had been in an altered state of function since March 2020. This impacted every facet of University life, from student residence to on-campus engagement and employment.

In the summer of 2020, the Department of Education under Secretary Betsy DeVos released the new Title IX regulations for all schools that receive federal funding. The deadline for implementing the new guidelines was August 14, 2020. Many schools scrambled to redo their policies and procedures to align with the new federal expectations. The short window for interpretation, realignment of policy, and application of the regulations meant that many schools began the academic year with unclear information for students. Downtown University was still sharing information and clarifying its processes for addressing gender-based violence and prohibited conduct (see the Title IX section in Legal Compliance for more information about the regulations).

Amidst the implementation of new Title IX regulations, Downtown University announced a number of critical staffing changes in units that respond to gender-based violence. The Title IX Coordinator was leaving, and the University was hiring a new role: Executive Director of Equal Opportunity and Title IX. An interim staff was hired to facilitate the implementation of the new regulations and management of cases over the

summer. In September of 2020, the only full-time confidential victims' advocate announced that they were leaving the University. The part-time advocate increased their hours to approximately 30 per week to manage the caseload until the new full-time advocate was hired. The new personnel in these roles received an elevation in title and scope. No change was made to Prevention Education; this work was staffed by one full-time Coordinator and 1-4 part-time graduate students.

Throughout the flux of the University practices and staffing, student activism persisted at Downtown University. In October of 2020, students staged a protest and released a list of demands to address the experience of Native American/Indigenous students at the University. The Downtown University administration responded and indicated that they would not meet many of the demands. This inspired a wave of response, including in-class protests, social media posts, and letters of support from staff and faculty units across campus. While the University did not acknowledge the connection of its colonial past to the perpetration of violence on campus, this remained a salient point for community members who saw the relationship between gender-based violence and the harmful legacy of colonialism.

Researcher Background and Goals

“Taking a critical stance toward power, knowledge, and self can usefully begin with actively theorizing our social, cultural, and political positionality - factors such as race, class, ability, and gender among others,” (Strega & Brown, 2015, p.9). These positionalities, or identities, create what scholars have described as a prism (Messner, Hondagneu-Sotel, & Zinn, 2005/2015) or an intersection (Crenshaw, 1996), among other metaphors. Each identity is assigned a relationship to power; in order to practice

transformational research, it is imperative that the researcher name and confront that relationship (Strega & Brown, 2015). In an effort to model this practice, this section highlights my identities, background, and subsequent goals of my research.

It is important for the reader to know that I am a White, cis-gender woman who comes from a middle-class family. I have a visual disability that makes seeing, reading, attending Zoom meetings, etc. challenging sometimes - but I am otherwise mobile and able-bodied. I have the privilege of existing in a world that does not question the validity of my gender, or that of my romantic relationship (it is straight-passing). I am a United States citizen, and English was my first language. I completed my K-12 education in the same school district, even though my parents divorced when I was young. It was expected that I go to college, and I followed this plan.

When I arrived at my undergraduate institution, I found my home in student affairs, specifically in residence life. I learned about student development, feminism, and social justice. I began to reflect on my social privileges, my Whiteness, and the experience of my peers with minoritized identities. I joined activist groups and critical student organizations. With the aspirational beliefs of a new (and privileged) student, I believed that college could change a person's life. Though I was yet unfamiliar with the work of Paulo Freire (2018) and did not use his words, I believed college could be a site of liberation; that every student that I worked with deserved to be there and pursue all the benefits higher education had to offer. This romantic notion of higher education did not consider the nuances of power, privilege, and/or oppression, or higher education's historical relationship to domination.

I completed my undergraduate degree prior to the issuance of the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter (US Department of Education, 2011). This guidance from the Department of Education instructed recipients of federal funding to expand Title IX prohibition of gender-based discrimination to include gender-based violence - sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and relationship violence. While gender-based discrimination was technically prohibited, attitudes and practices varied widely from campus to campus, and even from professional to professional. I experienced this firsthand when students in my residence hall came to me seeking protection from a staff member that I supervised who was sexually harassing them. I (again, romantically) believed that higher education would not fail them. My campus had provided me with an environment of development, exploration, and freedom; I believed it would surely do the same for students experiencing a clear violation of their academic opportunity.

Instead, when I contacted my supervisor, I was told there was nothing I could do, that there was no “proof.” I referred the students to the campus women’s center; they were told that “they should really think about the impact of making a report, and what that would do to this young man’s career.” To avoid the staff member, the students eventually modified their academic and social schedules, left their rooms as little as possible, and even used the hall restrooms at strategic times to avoid contact. The staff member remained on my team for the year. I was never able to address his behavior or provide a safe environment for those students. This was not the liberation I had believed to be available in higher education.

Despite this experience, my love of education and belief in its capacity for transformation led me to pursue my master’s degree in Higher Education. In the first year

of my program, I worked closely with faculty member Dr. Chris Linder. Her expertise in higher education focused on race, social justice, and gender-based violence. After the disheartening experience at my undergraduate institution, I was re-inspired by education: we could critically examine our practices and environments to address gender-based inequality. I learned about the intersection of identity, power, and socialization and the ways that I as a professional could both participate within as well as interrupt these systems. I reflected on my privilege, the space I take up in different settings, and the importance of power-conscious approaches to student affairs work. That year of study laid the foundation for my professional approach and perspectives that continue to frame my work today.

During this first year in my master's program, I experienced my own gender-based violence: a peer that I trusted sexually assaulted me after my birthday celebration. He was someone who many believed was an ally, a man committed to doing "the work." He regularly attended rallies, protests, and support events for social justice initiatives. We worked together in Student Conduct; he was supposed to uphold the values of our school. How could someone who was trusted in my community, who appeared to be an ally, be someone who easily took advantage of vulnerable acquaintances? When I later learned that perpetrators use their relationships to facilitate their behavior (Department of Justice, 2017), I was angry that prevention education was not provided to me or my peers, and that there was no framework for addressing perpetrator behavior before it occurred.

My early professional experiences, academic focus with Dr. Linder, and personal experience with perpetration solidified my interest in understanding gender-based violence in the higher education context. By the time I graduated from my master's

program, more guidance for utilizing Title IX as a tool to address prohibited conduct had been released (see US Department of Education, 2011). Additionally, the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provided clear direction for prevention practitioners to implement programs to address gender-based violence (these amendments are still in place; see Institutional Security Policies and Crime Statistics, 2020).

Despite increased policy and compliance initiatives, students are still perpetrating gender-based violence. As research indicates, not much has changed in the last 10-30 years (DeGue et al, 2014): rates of perpetration have remained the same, and in some cases have increased (for instance, at Downtown University; see “Downtown University”, 2018). Students deserve better. We must move beyond confusing response as a means to end gender-based violence, and instead focus on preventing violence before it occurs. Through my research and application of skills gained in my coursework, I look forward to understanding thoroughly the nature of perpetration in the University community and then developing a curriculum to address gender-based violence that centers the needs of Downtown University students.

My goal in this doctoral research project was not to create another generic curriculum for students, but rather to create campus-specific programs, informed by the student community, that addressed the patterns of perpetration described by Downtown University students. The resulting curriculum will speak to the University student community’s specific needs and center victim/survivors’ experiences within the development process. A campus-specific prevention and education curriculum contributes to the creation of a humanizing and liberating environment for students.

Using a power-conscious framework to understand the effect of power and privilege supported my work.

Education is a practice of freedom (hooks, 1994). Higher education has opened doors for me, deepened my critical understanding, and facilitated my personal evolution throughout my academic and professional careers. I recognize that this is due in large part to the privileged identities I have, and that they have shaped much of my career. I continue to believe that students deserve these same opportunities, free of violence. Within the educational setting, we have the opportunity to collaborate and enact real change. I look forward to making this a central component of my professional career.

Overview of Research Topic

Sexual assault, stalking, sexual harassment, and domestic violence are behaviors commonly referred to as gender-based violence (GBV). Statistics tell us that GBV is still a problem on college campuses, even after almost 60 years of research and work (Linder & Harris, 2017). As mentioned previously, perpetrators sexually assault one in five women and one in 16 men in college (NSVRC, 2015; Muehlenhard et al, 2017). Historically, perpetrators are 10 times more likely to target gay and bisexual men, as opposed to their straight peers (Know Your IX, 2016). Sexual violence is not solely based on gender; it is also based on identities such as race, class, religion, ability, and many more (Scott, Singh, & Harris, 2017). For example, perpetrators have targeted approximately 34% of multiracial women, 27% of Alaska Native/American Indian women, 22% of Black women and 14.6% of Hispanic women (Know Your IX, 2016). Many reporting mechanisms are not accessible, especially for Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color; the reporting mechanisms are often not welcoming for men

or gender-expansive community members (Linder & Harris, 2017). Additionally, national studies have failed to measure levels of violence against Asian American/Pacific Islander communities, citing small sample sizes.

Through the Violence Against Women Act and the Clery Act, universities were prescribed requirements to address GBV in order to receive federal funding (Institutional Security Policies and Crime Statistics, 2020). These requirements incorporated some prevention and education best practices for both students and employees. The Campus SaVE Act, passed in 2013, amended the Clery Act (see American Council on Education, 2014) to include requirements for college campuses to report annual statistics in a safety report. This report at Downtown University captured prevalence of reported incidences on a college campus; it did not include unreported incidences or other qualitative information. More information about the Violence Against Women Act, the Clery Act, and additional compliance items are discussed in the Legal Compliance section.

Downtown University provided some programs to address GBV for the campus community. Staff and faculty were required to complete training about GBV and Title IX at the time of their hire (“Downtown University”, 2020b); beginning in the Fall of 2020, staff and faculty were also required to complete online modules about sexual harassment, Title IX, and diversity and inclusion (“Downtown University”, 2020d). Programs for undergraduate students included in-person and virtual prevention workshops, ongoing awareness campaigns, bystander intervention, and risk reduction education. Many graduate programs at the University provided information on Title IX to incoming students and offered web-based prevention education tools (“Downtown University”, 2020b). The majority of these programs were power-neutral; they did not speak to the

social contexts that may influence perpetration and intervention and did not require that the participant reflect upon their own participation within those social contexts.

Despite the various prevention resources, rates of GBV perpetration were drastically higher at Downtown University than the national numbers cited above: 52% of undergraduate students reported being a primary or secondary survivor of gender-based violence since arriving on campus (“Downtown University”, 2018). Forty-nine percent of undergraduate victims/survivors knew the person responsible for perpetration. Of those who indicated experiencing GBV since enrolling at Downtown University, 52% of undergraduate victims/survivors said the perpetration occurred during their first Fall Quarter on campus. Forty-one percent of victims/survivors did not seek out support following their victimization (“Downtown University”, 2018). Data about students’ perpetration behaviors was not collected.

Students became increasingly vocal about their concerns with the rates of perpetuation on their campus. According to Linder and Myers (2017), “students on college campuses have used social media to establish community” (p.179). This included gender-based violence activists (see Linder et al, 2016). At Downtown University, student activists created an anonymous social media platform for victims/survivors to share their experiences with GBV. On January 12, 2020 an Instagram account with the username @BetterDowntownUniversity (see “BetterDowntownUniversity” [@BetterDowntownUniversity], 2020) shared their first post. As of April 13, 2021, the account had posted approximately 165 victim/survivor stories from anonymous contributors who shared personal experiences on topics including sexual assault, sexual

harassment, stalking, domestic violence, and others (“BetterDowntownUniversity” [BetterDowntownUniversity], 2020).

As part of their activism, students posted a list of demands for the University to address perceived inadequate GBV response, support, and prevention efforts (see “BetterDowntownUniversity” [BetterDowntownUniversity], 2020, post #42). Specifically, students requested an increase of prevention programming. In response, Downtown University administrators committed to a series of steps to address GBV on campus (“Downtown University”, 2020a). Namely, the University committed to the implementation of a four-year curriculum to prevent GBV for undergraduate students. I was asked to contribute to the development of the curriculum. At the time, only one campus-based four-year curriculum model was found to be in use at another U.S. university (see <https://students.dartmouth.edu/wellness-center/prevention-education/sexual-violence-prevention-project>); no other models could be located. A campus-specific curriculum needed to be created.

Problem of Practice

Gender-based violence prevention programs should reflect specific criteria in order to be effective. For instance, programs should follow a public health approach, where an ecological model is used to implement prevention tools and messages (American College Health Association, 2016; American College Health Association, 2018; Dills et al, 2016; Campus Technical Assistance and Resource Project, 2017; McMahon et al, 2019; Nation et al, 2003; Townsend, 2017). The interventions should be community specific (Banyard, 2011; Banyard, 2013; Banyard, 2014; Townsend, 2017; American College Health Association, 2018). Risk factors within the population should

be considered (Kimble, 2008), and the programs should be adapted to meet those needs (Nation et al, 2003; Everfi, 2015). An intersectional approach should be utilized where social power is foregrounded, in order to understand a person's identities and how those identities work together to impact experiences of GBV perpetration (McMahon, Burnham, & Barnyard, 2020). A community-specific assessment should be completed in order to understand the specific needs of and power influences within a community (Flack et al, 2008; McMahon, Burnham, & Barnyard, 2020).

Downtown University had implemented annual surveys to better understand students' perceptions of gender-based violence and how students re/acted in situations where GBV was perpetrated. According to Institutional Research and Analysis ("Downtown University", 2018), surveys were collected annually from 2016, 2017, and 2018. In 2016 and 2017, the demographics questions did not ask about a student's race or ethnicity, disability status, or veteran status; additionally, they provided limited response items for a student's gender identity and sexuality. In 2018, race/ethnicity questions and more options for gender identity and sexuality were included, though analysis of data based on different student identities was not included in the summary report. That same year, questions about bystander intervention actions were removed. None of the surveys included staff or faculty, and qualitative responses were not included in any summary reports. A survey was not completed in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Downtown University also released an annual Security and Fire Safety report as part of Clery Act compliance requirements ("Downtown University", 2020b). This report was announced to the community via email, and the current year's report was posted online. Within the report, specific data about incidents and rates of reporting was

outlined, with data provided from as far back as 2016. In addition to reported crime statistics, the report outlined campus policy, relevant campus, local, state, and federal laws pertaining to safety and security, and available campus resources. Annual prevention efforts and programs were highlighted. This report did not include qualitative data from community members, or data assessed for student demographics.

In each of the programs, models, and reports developed, neither power nor its implications were named. Quantitative data was collected about the individual experience of victimization, but students were not asked about gender-based violence supportive attitudes and/or perpetrator behavior, and social power was left out of the data analysis. Additionally, qualitative responses were not shared in University-wide reports. Data that was available was presented in the passive voice, removing the responsibility from those who perpetrate harm (Henley, Miller, & Beazley, 1995; Bohner, 2002). By “failing to consider the ways power influence[d] the dynamics of sexual violence through both research and practice [the result was] limited approaches to addressing the problem.” (Linder, Grimes, Williams, Lacy, & Parker, 2020, p.1018). Because assessment efforts did not account for the underlying systems that upheld and facilitated gender-based violence perpetration, the nature of perpetration at Downtown University could not be fully understood, and therefore an effective curriculum could not be created.

In summary, there was a higher rate of experience of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University than was reported nationally, as evidenced by prevalence statistics found in campus-based reports. Data collection about GBV perpetration in the Downtown University community did not include questions about perpetrator behaviors, rape supportive attitudes, or the ways that power dynamics

influenced gender-based violence. Downtown University, though, committed to providing a prevention and education curriculum to address gender-based violence. I only had access to power-neutral quantitative data; it did not include qualitative data from community members, identity-specific data, or data from staff and faculty. Without having a power-conscious understanding of gender-based violence perpetration in the Downtown University community, I could not begin to create an effective curriculum to address GBV at Downtown University.

Research Purpose

I intended to work in partnership with students at the University to develop a community-specific four-year primary prevention curriculum to be implemented at Downtown University. A curriculum, according to Wiggins and McTighe (2005), is a “blueprint for learning,” (p.4). It is not merely a set of activities, topics, or intended skills. Instead, a curriculum “specifies the most appropriate experiences, assignments, and assessments that might be used for achieving goals,” (Wiggins & McTighe, 2005, p.5). A curriculum is a planful map, highlighting the essential content and experiences to address and facilitate student learning. If the University’s goals were to “create a healthier, safer and more positive culture for all students,” (“Downtown University”, 2020a, p.1), then I needed to work with students to first identify the behaviors on campus which prevent that from happening.

Therefore, the purpose of this research project was to build a more complete picture of perpetration of gender-based violence at Downtown University. Before I could develop an effective curriculum, I needed to first understand the nature of perpetration at the University. I was given permission from the student survivor-activists who run the

@BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account to use the first-person narratives of victims/survivors shared to the Instagram page. By using Linder's power-conscious framework (2018) to assess the qualitative experiences of perpetration shared by victims/survivors at the University, I sought to understand the nature of perpetration within the community. Qualitative data has the capacity to change institutions and the lives of the people within those institutions (Creswell, 2013). Collecting qualitative data, in this case, centered the needs of the survivor community and ultimately contributed to supporting the University's goals to make meaningful culture change at Downtown University.

Research Questions

As mentioned in the Research Context section, critical reflexivity was a central component to this research project. Inasmuch as I believed higher education could be a site for transformation, I also acknowledged that higher education and its related activities are environments where historical harm and marginalization is recreated. According to Strega & Brown (2015), "research can be a powerful tool for social change - and for maintaining the status quo. Research can be used to suppress ideas, people, and social justice - and it can be used to respect, empower, and liberate," (p.19). Part of my process was investigating in such a way that dominance was critically investigated, with the intent to balance power. Strega and Brown (2015) suggest, "it is only when we reverse the gaze and investigate and problematize the other side of the equation - that is, the behaviors, discourses, and perceptions of the dominant - that we create possibilities for change that are transformative rather than incremental," (p.8). Through this research project, I focused my own gaze (and by extension, the reader's) on what has historically

been protected: perpetrator behavior; and on what has been historically left out of gender-based violence prevention and education research: victim/survivor voice to be situated as the guiding principle in education and change.

In order to meet my research goals, I wanted to understand how a college or university could use victim/survivor experiences shared through social media activism to inform power-conscious institutional prevention of gender-based violence perpetration. The following questions provided deeper insight into the nature of perpetration at the University, as expressed by victim/survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page.

The primary question of this research project was: What was the nature of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University? In order to uncover further detail about power and perpetration at the University, I examined:

1. What behaviors were described in survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page?
2. What was the role of power in the experience?
3. What was the effect of power in the experience described?
4. What, if any, actions were called for by the victim/survivor in the Instagram post?

Research Frameworks

My research frameworks reflected my beliefs and personal/professional practice. I worked to uphold power consciousness, which was informed by critical consciousness and intersectionality. As my work involved victims/survivors, I also utilized concepts from trauma-informed care. Both the power-conscious framework and trauma-informed care concepts are individual yet interrelated; they align to emphasize thoughtful

approaches to confronting harm. In the sections below, I provide a brief overview of my frameworks for understanding, as well as how they influenced my research.

Power-Conscious Framework

The content and research presented in this research proposal is reflective of Linder's power-conscious framework (2018). This framework, along with the theories that underpin its understanding, was one of the guiding frameworks of this doctoral research project. A power-conscious framework requires researchers and educators to "consider the role of power in the development of policies and practices, as well as the day-to-day individual interactions and call attention to systems of domination as a strategy for interrupting oppression," (Linder, Grimes, Williams, Lacy, & Parker, 2020, p.1021). Power is described as a means to control or influence the life or lives of others (Tatum, 2000). It could be something people possess, practice, or enjoy because of social and structural advantages (Hirsch & Khan, 2020). Power assigns its holder a position of dominance, and reinforced systems of oppression "by maintaining the status quo," (Linder, 2018, p.19). A power-conscious framework therefore challenges researchers and educators to consider ways to dismantle and reconstruct the system in an effort to share power (Linder, 2018).

There are three underlying assumptions within the power-conscious framework:

- 1) "Power is always present;
- 2) Power and identity are always connected;
- 3) Identity is socially constructed and changes over time," (Linder, Grimes, Williams, Lacy, & Parker, 2020, p.1021).

These assumptions establish the foundations for the tenets of the power-conscious framework. The tenets organize the core messages of the framework and are action-oriented (Linder, Grimes, Williams, Lacy, & Parker, 2020). There are six tenets:

- A. “Engage in critical consciousness and self-awareness;
- B. Consider history and context when examining issues of oppression;
- C. Change behaviors based on reflection and awareness;
- D. Name and call attention to dominant group members’ investment in and benefit from systems of domination;
- E. Name and interrogate the role of power in individual interactions, policy development, and implementation of practice;
- F. And work in solidarity to address oppression,” (Linder, Grimes, Williams, Lacy, & Parker, 2020, p.1021).

Figure 1 is a visual representation of the underlying assumptions and tenets of the power-conscious framework.

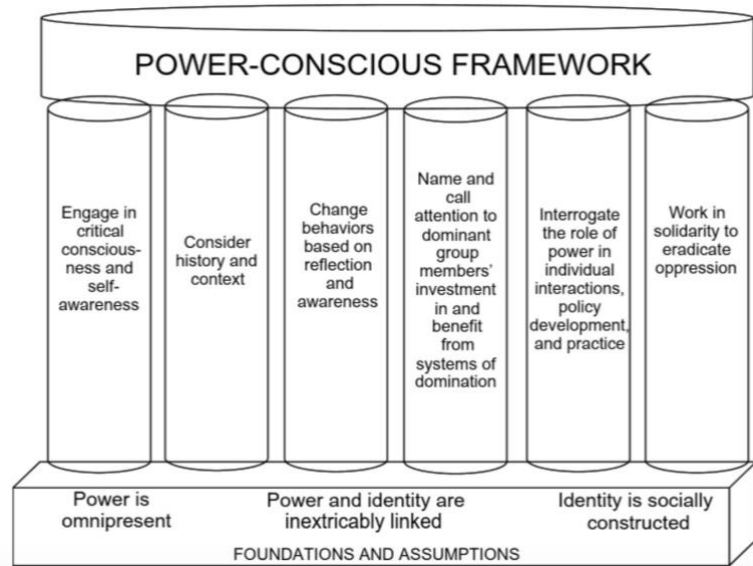


Figure 1: Linder’s (2018) Power Conscious Framework

According to Linder (2018), “a power-conscious framework focuses explicitly on the relationship of people with power to systems of oppression,” (p.14). A power-conscious framework requires a person to recognize the role power has in “individual, institutional, and cultural levels of interactions, policies, and practices,” (Linder, 2018, p.14). But rather than focus solely on power outside of the self, Linder also calls on the practitioner to look inward and identify intersections of power and domination within the self. The requirements of the power-conscious framework are echoed in my research context, critical reflexivity, and are modeled both in my literature review and in my research practice.

Linder’s power-conscious framework draws upon the research of two foundational concepts, Critical Consciousness (Freire, 2018; hooks, 1994) and Intersectionality, (Crenshaw, 1996). They are essential to understanding the nuances of the power-conscious framework.

Critical Consciousness. Paulo Freire (2018) coined the term critical consciousness to refer to the process by which oppressed peoples reflect on the nature of their oppression, become aware of its inner workings, and ultimately identify their internal stores of wisdom to liberate themselves from oppression. Freire (2018) called this process *conscientization*, or “the ways in which minoritized groups must come to see and understand the ways oppressors have taught [them] to accept their status as the oppressed group,” (Linder, 2018). In this process, educators are encouraged to utilize humanizing practices or practices that capitalize on the social and cultural strengths of the student to facilitate action based on awareness; this is what Freire called praxis (2018).

This is done to move the student from object (of oppression) to subject (agent of their own life) (hooks, 1994).

hooks (1994) expanded upon Freire's concepts of critical consciousness to encourage both educators and students to investigate their experiences with oppression, as well as the ways they may oppress others (Linder, 2018). hooks recommended critical reflection, foregrounding Strega and Brown's (2015) practice of critical reflexivity. hooks (1994) established the requirement (which Strega and Brown later echo) that the educator not engage the student in any act of critical reflection or work that they would not be willing to undertake themselves. hooks (1994) viewed education as a collaborative, transformative act that had the capacity to both change and liberate. According to Linder (2018), both Freire's and hooks' notions of "self awareness and awareness of systems of domination" create "the foundation of the power-conscious framework," (p.16). This concept is at the core of my personal, professional, and research practices.

Intersectionality. Crenshaw (1996) approached critical work from the background of legal studies, asking the scholar or researcher to "examine the intersections of oppression," (Linder, 2018, p.16). Crenshaw highlighted the ways that women of color experienced marginalization: both as women and as people of color, instead of through the lens of single identity. This intersection of identities creates a unique experience of oppression and privilege, as each identity is located differently within a system of domination. Each person has a unique layering of identities that intersect to create different experiences located within social dominance and/or oppression (Crenshaw, 1996). Though people may share similar identities and

backgrounds, the intersections of those identities make their experience of privilege and oppression unique.

Crenshaw also highlights the need for intersectionality in social or activist movements (Erevelles & Minear, 2013/2015). Without intersectionality, there is a risk that identities could be placed in a social hierarchy, replicating systems of domination; intersectionality centers the interplay between the identities to illuminate the unique experience of power and oppression present both personally and within social movements (Erevelles & Minear, 2013/2015). As such, intersectionality is fundamental to understanding the ways that power and domination are expressed through gender-based violence perpetration, as well as the impact of perpetration on different people and communities.

Trauma-Informed Care

Supporting victims/survivors is key to their healing after a traumatic event (American College Health Association [ACHA], 2018; Herman, 2015; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2014). “Trauma begins when an event or experience overwhelms normal coping mechanisms. Physical and psychological reactions — which are normal — often result in response to the traumatic event,” (The National Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project & the National Sexual Violence Resource Center [NSACRSP], 2013). Trauma can be used to refer to both the harmful event as well as the victim/survivor’s response to that event (NSACRSP, 2013). Appropriate practice in supporting victims/survivors of trauma including GBV trauma is known as trauma-informed care. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) identified six principles of trauma-informed care (SAMHSA,

2014). The American College Health Association (ACHA) adapted the principles to the college setting; they are outlined in Table 1 (American College Health Association [ACHA], 2018). According to the ACHA, in order to best support victims/survivors in their healing journey, a trauma-informed approach must be used (2018).

Table 1: Principles of Trauma-Informed Care

<p>Safety: “Trauma-informed campuses emphasize safety in physical and sensory environments, as well as emotional safety and security of the campus community in the classroom, on campus, and at campus- affiliated events. A campus climate of respect and collaboration is sought after and nurtured for all constituents of the campus community. All members of the campus community should be trained on trauma-informed approaches, emphasizing training for first responders, such as public safety staff, residence life staff, student affairs staff, facilities staff, peer counselors, coaching staff, faculty advisers, etc. This training should include basic crisis intervention.”</p>	<p>Trustworthiness and transparency: “Creating a climate of trustworthiness and transparency requires careful attention to consistent and on-going open communication between all levels of campus personnel. Organizational processes, policies, and protocols should be transparent, with the goal of creating and maintaining trust among all campus community members. This includes information on confidential and non-confidential resources and any associated reporting obligations. Campus staff and faculty must clearly and consistently inform students of their limitations and reporting responsibilities. People affected by trauma need the predictability of sensitive but consistent policies and procedures.”</p>
<p>Peer Support: “Peers, defined as those with similar experiences or those who are key caregivers within the recovery and healing process, are fundamental in establishing safety and hope.”</p>	<p>Collaboration and Mutuality: “Trauma-informed campuses recognize the importance of decision-making, with emphasis placed on partnerships unbiased by power differences. “There is recognition that healing happens in relationships and in the meaningful sharing of power and decision-making...Everyone has a role to play in a trauma-informed approach” (SAMHSA, 2014a).”</p>
<p>Empowerment, Voice, and Choice: “Recognizing the strengths of those who have experienced trauma gives them agency and voice while using</p>	<p>Cultural, historical, and gender issues: “Campuses acknowledge historical trauma and experiences, cultural stereotypes, biases, and myths associated with sexual</p>

<p>individualized approaches to empowerment and support. Opportunities for empowerment may include involving students serving on advisory boards, offering campus climate surveys, and conducting focus groups to obtain deeper feedback and understanding.”</p>	<p>and relationship violence as part of a trauma-informed approach of prevention, response, and advocacy services. The trauma-informed campus incorporates policies and procedures that are responsive and appropriate to the population served with attention to inclusivity and diversity.”</p>
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“An organization or system which is trauma-informed realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system; and responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices, and seeks to actively resist re-traumatization” (SAMHSA, 2012, p. 4).

Using trauma-informed practices centers the victim/survivor and accounts for the different impacts gender-based violence may have on them. It validates their experience and affirms the survivor’s innate right to agency and understands that each victim/survivor’s experience and needs are unique. A trauma-informed approach is essential to the healing of victims/survivors and allows them to reclaim power and control of their lives (ACHA, 2018; Herman, 2015; SAMHSA, 2014).

Trauma-informed care is born out of survivor-centered practice. Survivor-centered practice “places the needs of survivors at the center of all decision-making, emphasizes policies and programs that empower survivors to make their own choices for [justice] and recovery, and emphasizes survivors’ rights to confidentiality,” (Technical Assistance and Resource Project [CTARP], 2017, p.5). In survivor-centered practice, “survivors have the fundamental right to be treated with respect, to be heard, to be free of attitudes or policies that blame them for the abuse they have suffered, and have the autonomy to choose whether and how they will engage with systems of response,” (CTARP, 2017, p. 5).

A survivor-centered approach also recognizes that each victim/survivor is unique. Their different identities shape their experience as a victim/survivor (CTARP, 2017; Linder 2018). As a result, a survivor-centered approach uses an intersectional lens to understand and respond to victimization; a survivor-centered approach recognizes that “not all survivors respond to trauma in the same way, and policies and institutional practices must be trauma-informed to account for the diverse presentations of survivors,” (CTARP, 2017, p.5).

Both the power-conscious framework and the practice of trauma-informed care influenced my perspectives on prevention education, and my work with students in higher education. These two frameworks guided my practice in research as well as my relationship with the data, both in collection and analysis. With the intention of pursuing critical reflexivity, I acknowledge that my practice of both power-consciousness and trauma-informed care was not always perfect; I worked to embed each in my work and looked for ways to improve when I encountered areas of growth. I did my best to name when a research practice or question was out of alignment with my frameworks and provided correction or clarification.

Research Considerations

The intended audience of the results from this research project was Downtown University staff and faculty, as well as preventionists in the field of GBV prevention in higher education. While the University did not have data of perpetration and/or victim/survivorship for staff and faculty, national statistics indicate that perpetrators will sexually assault one in four women and one in 71 men in the United States (National Sexual Violence Resource Center [NSVRC], 2015). It is possible that the reader may be

impacted by gender-based violence in some way. As a result, alongside the content warning provided at the beginning of this research proposal, it is important for me to acknowledge the possible effects that this doctoral research project could have both on the reader and the researcher.

As I describe in *Understanding Trauma in the Literature Review*, trauma is a shared experience whose effects can be felt by those closest to the victim survivor (Herman, 2015; Remer & Ferguson, 1995). This is known as countertransference, or vicarious trauma (Herman, 2015). The effects of gender-based violence trauma, via vicarious trauma, may be felt by primary or secondary survivors engaging with content that echoes their own experiences. This can lead to symptoms of post-traumatic stress (Herman, 2015). Repeated exposure to these stories can challenge “the basic faith” of the reader (Herman, 2015, p.141). It is therefore important to remember the possibility of hope found in education. Through education, both the student and the teacher can experience transformation (Freire, 2018; hooks, 1996). While not a prescription to heal primary or secondary survivorship, this idea could provide support while engaging with difficult material.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

According to Creswell and Creswell (2018), the literature review of a research proposal serves a number of purposes, including: sharing information from work that is closely related to this research proposal; relating the research project to larger, ongoing dialogue in the field; and establishing the importance to the study. This literature review both situates the research within the larger conversation of gender-based violence prevention and models a power-conscious approach to understanding and addressing GBV. Linder's power-conscious framework (2018) guides the organization of this literature review. I first consider the history and context of perpetration by defining gender-based violence, explaining the impact of trauma, sharing a brief history of violence and its connection to power, as well as providing context to gender-based violence and higher education. I then "investigate the role of power in individual interactions, policy development, and practice," (p.21) by examining legal compliance and prevention programs and models. Throughout, I "name and call attention to dominant group members' investment to and benefit from systems of domination," (p.21).

Additionally, I use the literature review to scaffold the understanding of the reader. As mentioned in the Introduction chapter, the intended audience of this research project is staff and faculty. Many may not be aware of the complexities of gender-based violence prevention, awareness, and response. This literature review contextualizes both the issue of GBV perpetration as well as the current practices used in an effort to prevent

it. The information included in the literature review was found by searching online databases for “college sexual assault prevention,” “primary prevention,” and “trauma-informed care” among other similar search phrases with slight variation. I used research shared by colleagues on listservs, including the Campus Advocacy and Prevention Professionals Association (CAPPA) listserv and email database. Books, publications, and prevention guides were also examined. Legal guidelines and implementation practice documents informed the legal compliance section.

Organization of Literature Review

In order to address gender-based violence, it is essential to first clearly define the phrase “gender-based violence” and the behaviors it describes. This literature review begins with specific definitions of GBV conduct, followed by a brief history of GBV in the United States. This section is followed by an overview of trauma in order to contextualize the effects of GBV. The literature review then concludes with higher-education specific information, including legal compliance and prevention programs and models. This leads to a discussion on humanizing pedagogy and the utilization of a power-conscious framework (Linder, 2018) to address gender-based violence perpetration on a college campus.

Defining Gender-Based Violence

At Downtown University, gender-based violence was an umbrella term used to talk about sexual harassment, stalking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Anyone could be a victim or survivor of GBV regardless of gender, sexual orientation, sexuality, race, age, class, strength, size, appearance, relationship status, etc. (“Downtown University”, 2020b; “Downtown University”, 2020c). This term was the one most

commonly used at the University. Other people, including researchers, use phrases like “gender violence,” “sexual violence,” “interpersonal violence,” or “power-based violence” instead. Victims/survivors may use different language altogether, that more closely describes the behavior they endured. When describing behaviors shared by victims/survivors throughout this research project, I used the language used by victims/survivors. For the sake of general information sharing in this research paper, I used “gender-based violence” or “GBV” to align with what was commonly used and understood in the University community.

The Office of Title IX was responsible for ensuring community compliance with policies that prohibit conduct related to gender-based violence; these policies are discussed further in the Legal Compliance section. In this doctoral research project, I use the definitions established and followed at Downtown University, as my research and recommendations were specific to that community. For clarity, the following definitions of behavior are provided, as they are discussed throughout this study.

- Sexual harassment: “a form of harassment, which includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature,” (“Downtown University”, 2020c, p.9).
- Stalking: “engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress,” (“Downtown University”, 2020c, p.9). This can include cyber-stalking.

- Domestic violence: “threats, property damage, violence or threat of violence to one’s self, one’s romantic or intimate partner or to the family members, friends, or pets of the romantic or intimate partner,” (“Downtown University,” 2020c, p.11).
- Sexual assault: nonconsensual sexual contact or nonconsensual sexual penetration. Specific definitions of both behaviors could be found in the University's policies document (“Downtown University”, 2020c).

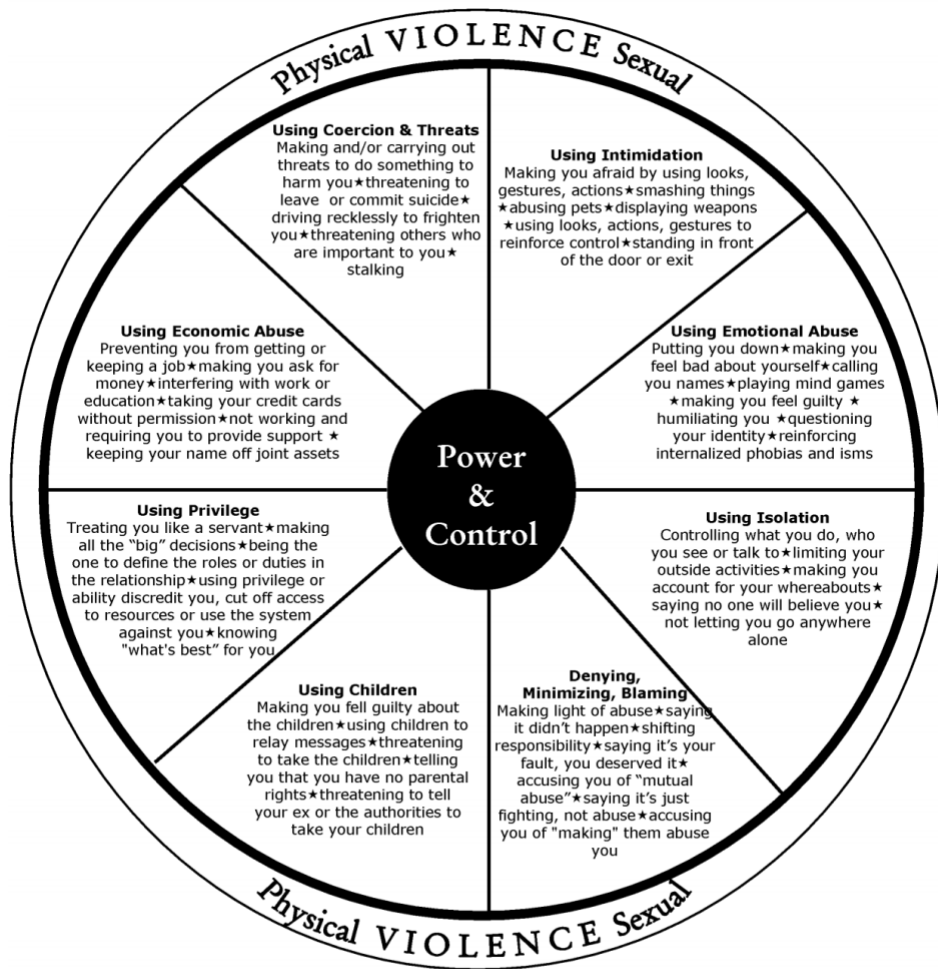
Also discussed throughout this research project is consent. Often, prohibited conduct is defined and clarified by the absence of consent. At Downtown University, consent was defined as being clear, knowing, and voluntary. The University stated that consent was active and required for any and each sexual act. Further clarification of the definition of consent and the practice of consent was included in an Equal Opportunity and Title IX Policies document (Downtown University, 2020c).

Power and Gender-Based Violence

Though it may include the word “gender” and include sexual acts, gender-based violence is not about sex, lust, or gender. Instead, GBV is an exercise of a person's socialized power and control over another person (Harris, 2017; Linder & Harris, 2017; Linder, 2018; Lorde 1984/2015; Tatum, 2000; “Downtown University”, 2020c). Power is used to control or influence the life or lives of others (Tatum, 2000). Social power assigns the holder a position of dominance. Perpetrators use their power to exert control or dominance over their targets.

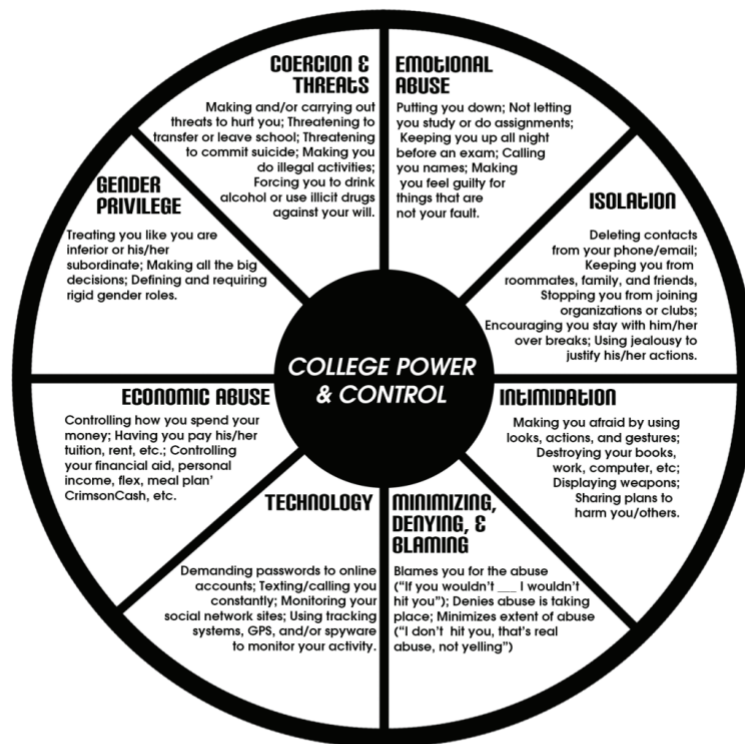
To illustrate how a perpetrator may exercise power and control, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) adapted the Power and Control Wheel (see Figure 2). It highlights eight dimensions in which a perpetrator may use different tactics

to exercise control over the victim/survivor. Students at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) adapted the Power and Control Wheel specifically for college students (see Figure 3). Both of these Power and Control Wheels highlight that the experience of perpetration is not singular; a perpetrator may use different tactics to control the victim/survivor. Often, perpetrators modify their behavior in order to target the victim/survivor's most vulnerable identities.



*Adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
Duluth, Minnesota*

Figure 2: NSVRC Power and Control Wheel



Created by The Haven Project —(724) 357-4799, <http://iup.edu/haven>

Adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project Power and Control Wheel
 Created by: Alisia Drew, Graduate Assistant; Morgan Chase, Peer Educator;
 Melissa King, Peer Educator

Figure 3: IUP College Power and Control Wheel

Intersectionality and Gender-Based Violence

Some identities in US culture are afforded more social power than others. To fully understand power, and how it is expressed within gender-based violence, a person’s intersecting identities must be considered (Linder, 2018; Linder & Harris, 2017). As stated in the Introduction, perpetrators are more likely to target people with some identities than they are to target others. This is because some identities are afforded less social power than others. A person who has an identity that is assigned more dominance within a structure could feel entitled to certain kinds of behavior and attitudes (Hirsh & Khan, 2020). For example, one study (Cassino & Besen-Cassino, 2019) found that

harassment in the workplace was carried out predominantly by men as a means for them to assert their dominance as an expression of power. Researchers concluded that the shift from sexual harassment of White women to Black women indicated that harassers are conscious of power relationships, and therefore chose to target more socially vulnerable women of color in their workplaces (Cassino & Besen-Cassino, 2019). Without an awareness of power and its influence in the perpetration of GBV, power cannot be effectively addressed.

Understanding Trauma

People who experience gender-based violence are often described as having experienced trauma. According to SAMHSA,

“individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being,” (2014, p.7).

The ACHA (2018) stated that up to 75% of college students report having experienced a traumatic event. Given that victims/survivors underreported their experiences of gender-based violence perpetration, especially victims/survivors with marginalized identities, it was unclear what number of students had experienced trauma related to gender-based violence. Nonetheless, “trauma exposure is pervasive among college students and its impact is very broad,” (ACHA, 2018).

What is traumatic to one individual may not be traumatic to another. SAMHSA clarified that events, experiences, and effects define trauma. Events “may include the actual or extreme threat of physical or psychological harm; they may happen once or repeatedly over time,” (SAMHSA, 2014, p.8). The victim/survivor’s experience of the

event(s) determine whether or not it was traumatic: “how the individual labels, assigns meaning to, and is disrupted physically and psychologically by an event will contribute to whether or not it is experienced as traumatic,” (SAMHSA, 2014, p.8). Factors that influence how the victim/survivor experiences a traumatic event include cultural beliefs, availability of and access to social supports, and the developmental level of the victim/survivor (SAMHSA, 2014). Many survivors of trauma have lasting effects. Table 2 provides a brief outline of trauma effects and/or responses (this table is not exhaustive nor is it prescriptive).

Loved ones and people close to the victim/survivor can also experience trauma effects and/or responses. According to Herman (2015), “trauma is contagious”; the person who bears witness to the victim/survivor’s experience is likely to experience the same “terror, rage, and despair” (p.140) as the victim/survivor. This is known as vicarious trauma (Herman, 2015; NSACRSP, 2013). The person experiencing vicarious trauma is known as a secondary survivor, not because they experience less trauma but because they are not the primary person upon whom the perpetration was targeted (Remer & Ferguson, 1995). The victim/survivor that directly experiences gender-based violence perpetration is identified as the primary survivor (Remer & Ferguson, 1995).

Table 2: Trauma Effects and Responses

Emotional	Physical	Behavioral	Cognitive
Anger/rage	Headaches	Argumentative	Forgetfulness
Anxiety	Holding breath	Cringing, flinching	Fragmented recollection
Fear	Increased respiration	Crying	Inability to relate history
Helplessness	Light-headedness	Restlessness	Unable to decide
Powerlessness	Nausea	Spaced out, vacant stare	Unable to focus/concentrate
Sudden sadness	Rapid heart rate	Startle response	Unable to speak/respond
Suspicion	Rise in blood pressure	Stiffness/tension	
Worry	Stomachache	Uncooperativeness	
	Sweating	Unresponsiveness	
	Trembling		

Safe Place: Trauma Sensitive Practice for Health Centers Serving Students, 2019

Individual trauma does not take place in a vacuum, instead it is felt within the community (SAMHSA. 2014). “How a community responds to individual trauma sets the foundation for the impact of the traumatic event, experience, and effect,” (SAMHSA, 2014, p.17). Communities that center trauma-informed care have the capacity to “facilitate healing,” and communities that “avoid, overlook, or misunderstand the impact of trauma” can be harmful themselves and therefore interfere with any healing and change (SAMHSA, 2014, p.17).

“Traumatic events set up a power differential where one entity...has power over another,” (SAMHSA, 2014, p.8). Much as secondary survivors can feel the effects of gender-based violence perpetration, so too can the victim/survivors' broader community. The shared experience of harm has long-term, adverse effects where the trauma resulting from power and control is passed from one generation to the next (SAMHSA, 2014). In order to fully understand gender-based violence, trauma, and perpetration, it is imperative to also understand trauma within a historical context.

History of Violence

What is understood as gender-based violence is varied and has changed over time (Muehlenhard & Kimes, 1999). This is because people with dominant identities “have an interest in defining violence in ways that exclude their own behavior (Muehlenhard & Kimes, 1999, p.234). As a result, the behavior that is defined as violence and who gets to decide so, is reflective of those in power (Muehlenhard & Kimes, 1999). As a result, gender-based violence is understood through an ahistoric framework which leaves out the experiences of those targeted and harmed by gender-based violence; the reality of perpetration is not understood within the contexts of sociohistorical and institutionalized systems (Harris, 2017). This results in a warranted lack of trust from minoritized and marginalized students (McMahon, Burnham, & Barnyard, 2020). “Researchers who want to address issues pertaining to marginalized peoples and communities need to educate themselves not only about their socio-political history, but also about the history of relationships between marginalized and dominant groups,” (Strega & Brown, pp.4-5). Current expressions of power and control must be understood inside a historical and contextual framework (Harris, 2017).

Much as our society and social understanding has evolved to include historically marginalized voices, so too must our understanding of gender-based violence change (Muehlenhard & Kimes, 1999). We must look back and see where behaviors that were traditionally accepted as the norm were in fact harmful, and how those behaviors continue to influence our world today. For instance, European colonizers utilized sexual assault as a tool to claim control over Indigenous land. According to Freedman (2013) and Smith (2005), colonizers sexually assaulted Indigenous people to celebrate their conquest and to keep the Indigenous people in a state of fear so they were easier to control. As the colonization of what is now North and South America continued, slave owners utilized sexual assault as a means to control enslaved men and women, and to increase their own economic power - the children of enslaved women became slave owners' property (Freedman, 2013; Harris, 2017). Through sexual assault, White men maintained their power to control Black and Indigenous people (Freedman, 2013; Thompson-Miller & Picca, 2016).

The use of gender-based violence to maintain dominance did not stop when the United States was claimed as a country or when slavery was outlawed. Following emancipation, White men in power (police officers, those with economic power, etc.) used sexual assault as a tool to keep control over formerly enslaved people (McGuire, 2010; Thompson-Miller & Picca, 2016). White men and women would also accuse Black men of sexually assaulting White women, again using gender-based violence as a tool to control and maintain White dominance (Linder, 2018). Before the 1970s and 1980s, phrases like *wife rape*, *date rape*, *wife beating*, and *courtship violence* did not exist (Muehlenhard & Kimes, 1999). Instead, gender-based violence was the norm, and

even in some cases was legalized as an acceptable way for husbands to control their wives (Muehlenhard & Kimes, 1999). GBV was a tool used in many settings by White men in power to maintain control.

It is important to reflect on the history of violence as it intertwined with domination and social power because, “a lack of focus on identities, power and domination, and history (re) constructs and maintains systems of domination that lead to violence” (Linder & Harris, 2017, p. 1). By ignoring the inequities of the past, gender-based violence is understood through an ahistoric framework that erases the lived experiences of perpetration and disconnects sexual violence from a larger system of power and domination (Harris, 2017). It creates a vacuum, where disproportionate rates of perpetration against marginalized and minoritized communities are seen as anomalous, or worse, the identities themselves are problematized. This can be seen in the way statistics are shared. For example: Black women are more likely to be sexually assaulted (as inferred from statistics shared by NSVRC, 2015). Not only is the passive voice used to hide the perpetrator (Henley, Miller, & Beazley, 1995; Bohner, 2002), but the Blackness of the victim/survivor is identified as the mitigating factor that increases their likelihood of experiencing gender-based violence. Instead of problematizing the system that has historically facilitated the harming of people with minoritized identities, the person was interpreted as the problem (Linder, 2018). Without historical context, practices such as this would go uninterrogated.

As Linder (2018) said, history matters. Campus researchers and educators cannot effectively understand, address, or deconstruct sexual violence in an ahistoric framework. By examining gender-based violence within a historical context, with reference to its

implications for current perpetration and maintenance of power structures, they can instead make it clear how little violence had to do with sex and instead how much it is rooted in power, control, and colonization (Harris, 2017; Linder, 2018).

Gender-Based Violence and Higher Education

Higher education in the United States mirrors the country's history of perpetrating violence and systemic power-based inequalities, and benefits from an ahistoric understanding of the past. Many colleges and universities have roots in slave ownership, white supremacy, and patriarchal dominance (Patton, 2016). For example, as White slave owners increased their financial power and wealth through the domination of Black and Indigenous peoples, they were celebrated as "institutional icons," (Patton, 2016, p. 318). This is because, as early universities were formed, they identified the capitalistic gains of slavery as viable opportunity for establishing power (Patton, 2016). College campuses became the "intellectual and cultural playgrounds of the plantation and merchant elite" (Wilder, 2013, p. 138 as cited in Patton, 2016, p.318). This relationship to power and financial control - as well as the complicity in maintaining dominance structures - continues to the present day. This is because the majority of those in power on modern-day campuses are products of the same higher education system that is rooted in power and control (Patton, 2016), and many are still reliant on the capitalistic opportunities of attendees.

It should therefore not come as a surprise that higher education is not immune from gender-based violence perpetration and its resulting traumas. "Attitudes, beliefs, and power structures connected to sexual violence are constantly (re)produced on a societal level and manifest in colleges and universities across the country," (Wooten,

2016, p.37). What is seen in the broader US context was replicated in higher education. The systems of gender-based power and control that are historically present in US society continue to occur on college campuses. As stated in the Introduction section, 52% of undergraduate students at Downtown University identify as a primary or secondary survivor of GBV; 49% of undergraduate victims/survivors at Downtown University knew their perpetrator (“Downtown University”, 2018). Unfortunately, this data did not capture the specific experiences of minoritized students, leaving the data decontextualized.

Based on the data that is known, gender-based violence perpetration has lasting effects on college students. Nationally, one study found that only 36% of victims/survivors who experienced GBV finished their degree on-schedule (Potter, Howard, Murphy, & Moynihan, 2018). Sixty-seven percent of victims/survivors reported negative impacts on their academic performance (Potter, Howard, Murphy, & Moynihan, 2018). In fact, researchers found a connection between the experience of sexual assault and both end-of-semester cumulative GPA and final-term GPA four years later: “SV predicted students’ GPA in their final term at the university above the contributions of well-established academic predictors, and it was the only factor related to leaving college,” (Baker, Frazier, Greer, et al, 2016). Students who experienced gender-based violence were more likely to drop out; one study found that 34% of victims/survivors who experienced sexual victimization left their school following experiencing gender-based violence perpetration (Mengo & Black, 2016).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “the estimated lifetime cost of rape was \$122,461 per victim,” (Peterson, DeGue, Florence, & Lokey, 2017, p.691); the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) estimates

the total lifetime cost of sexual assault at \$151,423 (NSVRC, 2015). Put alongside the delay in degree completion and the increased likelihood of dropout, the academic and financial burdens of gender-based violence creates real disadvantages for survivors. For victims/survivors that did graduate, the majority (85%) made less than \$55,000; nearly half made less than \$35,000 (Potter, Howard, Murphy, & Moynihan, 2018). The data shows that following their experience of GVB perpetration, victims/survivors are more likely to experience ongoing marginalization. This is especially impactful for survivors with minoritized identities, as they already face systems of oppression based in historical practices of harm.

In order to address campus-based GBV, students have asked for increased engagement and responsibility from their schools. Some students used social media to engage (@BetterDowntownUniversity, 2020; Linder, Myers, Riggle, & Lacy, 2016). Some students used art and performance activism (See Emma Sulkowitz in Linder, Myers, Riggle, & Lacy, 2016, who pledged to carry her dorm room mattress around campus until her perpetrator was removed). Students of color and/or LGBTQ students who participated in research indicated the need to build authentic relationships and trust with staff, as well as the need for programming aimed at people who are or might become perpetrators (McMahon, Burnham, & Barnyard, 2020). Overall, students are looking for programs rooted in “identity and social justice,” (McMahon, Burnham, & Barnyard, 2020, p.801).

Gender-based violence reinforces patriarchal and White supremacist historical structures on campus (Harris, 2017). As a result, students with historically minoritized identities are more likely to experience power imbalances across campus and are more

likely to experience gender-based violence perpetration (Coulter & Rankin, 2020; Know Your IX, 2016; McMahon, Burnham, & Banyard, 2020). An ahistoric understanding of campus-based GBV reinforces the marginalization of students with minoritized identities (McMahon, Burnham, and Banyard, 2020). Understanding gender-based violence and its impact on a college or university campus is essential in order to understand and address issues of power, privilege, and oppression. When put alongside the academic and financial impacts of GBV perpetration, multiple layers of oppression became clear; historical power systems are replicated and highlighted.

Legal Compliance

A number of laws, statutes, and regulations have been developed to address gender-based violence in higher education. Title IX, the Clery Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and amendments to Clery via the Campus SaVE Act dictated how gender-based violence is defined, prohibited, and addressed on college campuses. These regulations and acts were administered and enforced by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX at Downtown University.

Title IX

As explained on the Downtown University website, Title IX is a part of the Education Amendments of 1972. This amendment prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs that receive federal financial assistance; it includes sexual harassment as a form of sex discrimination (Henriksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016). Title IX was originally implemented to ensure equitable resources and access to athletic programs in higher education. In 2011, the Department of Education released a “Dear Colleague Letter” (DCL) expanding the interpretation of Title IX to include sexual

violence as an extreme form of sexual harassment (Sokolow, Schuster, Lewis, & Swinton, 2016). The DCL provided recommendations for schools on key requirements, policies, and prevention efforts that were now included under Title IX (Department of Education, 2011).

In 2017, the Department of Education began to revoke guidance from the 2011 DCL for Title IX. On May 6, 2020, during the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Department of Education issued final Title IX regulations. The new regulations were required to be implemented by August 14, 2020. Known as the Final Rule, the regulations outline new procedures, definitions, and limitations that federally funded schools must follow. Prior policies and requirements were issued as guidance. The Final Rule is a legally binding document with legal implications for schools (US Department of Education, 2020a). It emphasizes equal treatment of complainants (alleged victims) and respondents (alleged perpetrators) and limits a University's scope of investigation to behaviors determined to be “severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive,” (US Department of Education, 2020a, p.2). Additionally, the new Final Rule specifies that only behaviors that occurred where a college or university had “substantial control” are eligible for investigation (US Department of Education, 2020a, p.2). These are among some of the changes outlined in the 2000+ pages of regulations (Department of Education, 2020b). The new regulations are a marked shift from the more survivor-supportive guidance issued 2011-2016.

As required by law, Downtown University complied with the Title IX regulations; the University released a statement committing to “creating an environment in which all members of the [University] community feel safe reporting their experiences and remain

confident that their cases will be heard thoroughly, fairly, and with respect,” (“Downtown University”, 2020e). Know Your IX, a Title IX advocacy group for students, released a statement about the Final Rule, stating the “final rule on Title IX...guts student survivors’ rights and tips the scales of school sexual misconduct cases in favor of perpetrators and schools that wish to sweep sexual violence under the rug,” (2020). Further, Know Your IX stated that the new regulations would:

“[permit] schools to ignore sexual assault that occurs outside of a school program — such as in off-campus housing...; increase barriers to reporting and shield schools from liability for ignoring or covering up sexual harassment...; require schools to only investigate the most serious forms of harassment and assault...; [and allow] schools to use unregulated “mediation” processes instead of investigating,” (2020).

It was unclear how the new regulations and their anticipated results would affect the lives of victims/survivors at Downtown University.

Clery Act

Alongside Title IX is a notable piece of legislation known as the “Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act”. Commonly called the Clery Act, it outlines specific measures colleges and universities must take in regard to campus safety and security (Institutional Security Policies and Crime Statistics, 2020). The Clery Act was enacted in 1998 in memory of Jeanne Clery, a freshman student at Lehigh University who was raped and murdered in her dorm room in 1986. The Clery Act requires all federally funded colleges and universities to publicly disclose an annual security report (Henriksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016). The Clery Act also specifies required safety programming and reporting practices. More information about

the Clery Act and the University's reporting can be found in the University's Annual Campus Security & Fire Safety Report ("Downtown University", 2020b).

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) and the Campus SaVE Act

The Title IX Final Rule takes its definitions of sexual harassment from the Violence Against Women Act (US Department of Education, 2020a). The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was originally passed in 1994, following the governmental response to gender-based violence in Title IX and the Clery Act (Henriksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016). The VAWA Reauthorization was signed into law in 2013. The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (Campus SaVE) Act was part of the 2013 VAWA reauthorization and amended the Clery Act (Everfi, 2015; Henriksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016; Institutional Security Policies and Crime Statistics, 2020). The Campus SaVE Act expands the scope of the Clery Act as it pertains to prevention programs, reporting, and response to gender-based violence. Specifically, colleges and universities are required to provide primary prevention and awareness programs, including bystander intervention education (Henriksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016). These programs need to include campus policies, definitions of prohibited conduct, definitions of consent, bystander intervention skills, and risk reduction training. The Campus SaVE act also requires that domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking be reported in the annual security report (Henriksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016). Though changes to Title IX have altered the primary process for investigating gender-based violence (otherwise called sexual harassment in Title IX, Clery, and VAWA), colleges and universities were still required to be in compliance with the Campus SaVE Act.

State Senate Bill

In 2019, the state in which Downtown University was located passed a Senate bill (SB 19-007, 2019), codifying best practice and prevention programs into state law. This bill introduced regulations for colleges and universities in the state, requiring them to: make known to victims/survivors their options, resources, and protections following sexual misconduct; make known the procedures for adjudication; provide training on awareness and prevention of sexual misconduct; annually report updates to the state Department of Higher Education; and host educational summits every two years to advance new practices and policies. This information is required to be posted and promoted annually on the college or university's website.

According to Hong (2017), the majority of state and federal legislation and guidance that had been passed or released falls under one of four themes:

1. Improving the quality of and access to support services for victims/survivors.
2. Enhancing equitable processes for both victims/survivors and students who have been accused of perpetration in investigative and/or disciplinary hearings.
3. Building partnerships among campus-based and community-serving organizations.
4. Expanding data collecting and reporting processes.

These efforts do not address the root cause of gender-based violence (Hong, 2017), which is power and control (Harris, 2017; Linder & Harris, 2017; Linder, 2018; Lorde 1984/2015; Tatum, 2000; "Downtown University", 2020c). They also focus on response efforts following GBV perpetration; specific prevention education is needed. In order to

be effective, prevention education programs need to meet standards that are considered best practice.

Prevention Programs and Models

As part of the power-conscious approach to addressing gender-based violence, Linder (2018) highlights three distinct yet interrelated components for effective campus-based efforts: awareness, prevention, and response. Figure 4 illustrates the separate yet connected nature of these efforts, identified as overlapping rings of the model. The awareness ring “encompasses efforts to bring the problem of [gender-based violence] into the consciousness of administrators and students,” (Linder, 2018, p.34). Initiatives that share statistics and personal experiences of GBV raise awareness of the problem. Awareness efforts can also include victim/survivor support resources, as well as available reporting options.

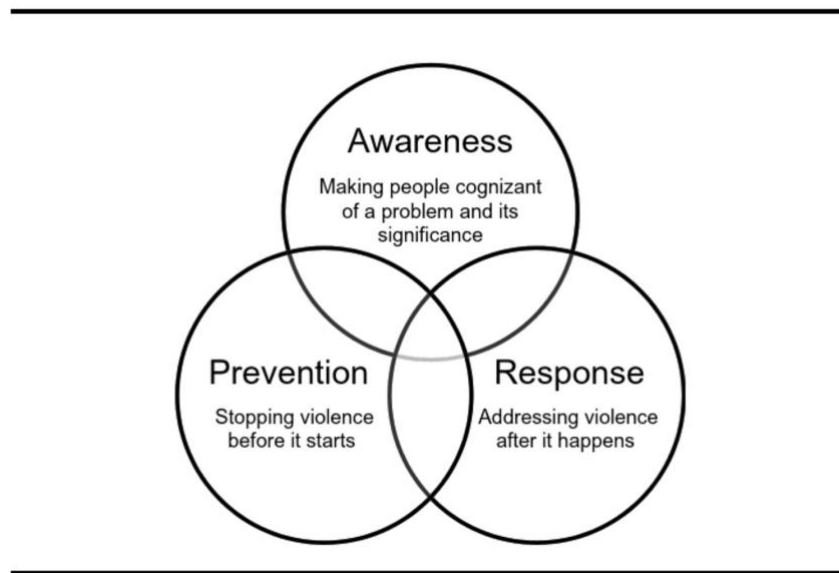


Figure 4: Linder’s (2018) Model of Prevention, Awareness, and Response Efforts

The response ring “refers to the way that institutional agents address [gender-based violence] after it occurs,” (Linder, 2018, p.34). Victim/survivor support resources, options for reporting, and investigative processes are examples of response. Trauma-informed response resources are central in the support of a victim/survivor, and clear processes ensure a university follows the same rules for all cases. Letting the campus community know about policies as well as the consequences of perpetrating is not effective in deterring gender-based violence perpetration (Linder, 2018).

Instead, true gender-based violence prevention encompasses “the strategies institutions employ to address [gender-based violence] before it happens,” (Linder, 2018, p.34). Therefore, the prevention ring emphasizes that programming efforts should be focused on addressing the oppressive behavior and beliefs of perpetrators and potential perpetrators (Linder, 2018). Most prescribed prevention efforts focus on community members as bystanders and potential victims; potential perpetrators and their actions are not the focus of those educational efforts. Later in this section, I discuss the benefits and the limits of using bystander intervention as a tool to interrupt GBV perpetration.

As Linder’s model suggests, these three components often overlap. For instance, an educator may facilitate a workshop to raise awareness of gender-based violence as an issue on campus while also providing resources to attendees, in case they realize they have experienced perpetration as a result of their new awareness. Awareness, Prevention, and Response efforts should not occur in a vacuum, and in fact are supportive and beneficial to one another in a comprehensive approach (Linder, 2018). Unfortunately, awareness, prevention, and response often get conflated and as a result, true prevention of GBV does not take place. For example, in the previous section, Hong (2017) highlights

the four categories in which most legislation and guidance falls. Broadly, the legislation and guidance do not address the root cause of GBV as they focus on awareness and response efforts. As I state earlier, we cannot end gender-based violence by responding to it. Linder (2018) provides helpful clarification of the way awareness, prevention, and response are unique yet interrelated efforts; each is necessary and serves its own purpose within a comprehensive approach to address GBV on a college campus.

Focusing on the prevention ring of Linder's model, it is important to understand the different types of prevention that can take place. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (Centers for Disease Control [CDC], 2004), there are three levels of GBV prevention:

- 1) Primary prevention: takes place before violence occurs.
- 2) Secondary prevention: takes place immediately following an act of GBV.
- 3) Tertiary prevention: takes place over the long term, to address the lasting consequences of GBV.

Both secondary and tertiary prevention align with the response ring of Linder's model. While they attempt to prevent further harm from occurring, an initial act of perpetration has taken place. In order to effectively confront gender-based violence, a college or university needs to implement primary prevention programs (Linder, 2018).

Since the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter, countless prevention programs have been created and implemented to address campus gender-based violence (DeGue, et al, 2014; Schneider & Hirsch, 2018; McMahon et al, 2019). Not all programs meet recommended best practice. According to Nation et al. (2003), an effective prevention program needs to meet nine standards:

“the programs are comprehensive; include varied teaching methods; provide sufficient dosage; are theory driven; provide opportunities for positive relationships; are appropriately timed; are socioculturally relevant; include outcome evaluation; and involve well-trained staff,” (p.449).

Many programs in the field utilized the Social Ecological Model, the Trans-Theoretical Model, and/or Bystander Intervention to address gender-based violence.

Social Ecological Model

The social ecological model has been adopted as the public health approach to addressing gender-based violence (American College Health Association, 2016; American College Health Association, 2018; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2020; Campus Technical Assistance and Resource Project, 2017; Dills et al, 2016; Townsend, 2017; McMahon et al, 2019). An ecological model emphasizes risk and protective factors within intrapersonal, relational, community, and societal levels.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the social ecological model

“considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community, and societal factors. It allows [the reader] to understand the range of factors that put people at risk for violence or protect them from perpetrating or experiencing violence. The overlapping rings in the model illustrates how factors at one level influence factors at another level,” (CDC, 2020).

Figure 5 provides a visual of the model.

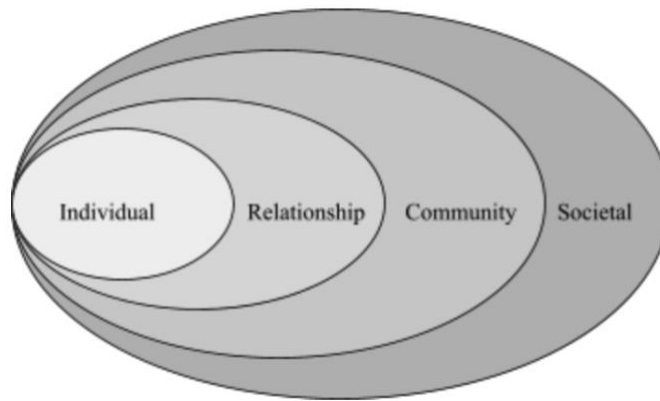


Figure 5: Social Ecological Model

The individual context includes a student’s knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and self-concept. The model highlights the importance of social and personal information that could increase the likelihood that a person may become a perpetrator or victim/survivor. Appropriate interventions at this level include changing attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors to prevent harm (CDC, 2020). The relationship context encompasses a student’s immediate social connections. This level highlights the influence that close relationships have on increasing the risk of perpetration and victimization. According to the CDC (2020), “A person’s closest social circle-peers, partners and family members-influences their behavior and contributes to their experience.” Prevention efforts at this level should include programs that target close relationships (CDC, 2020).

The community context expands into the student’s larger formal and informal social networks and both their implicit and explicit norms or expectations. This includes settings such as schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, etc. where social relationships take place and addresses the characteristics of those settings that may facilitate violence.

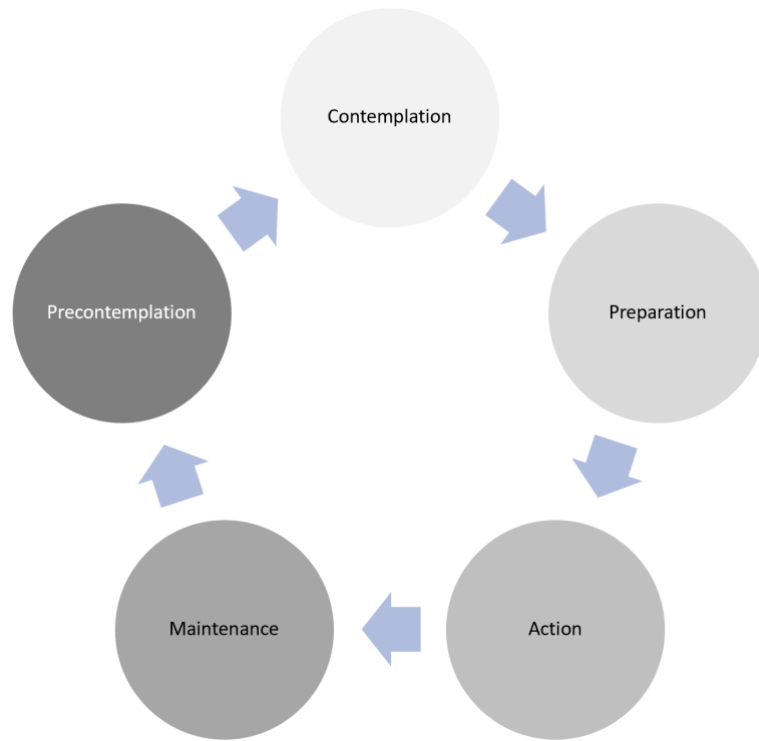
Prevention strategies at this level should be addressed in both social and physical environments (CDC, 2020). The societal level encompasses beliefs, institutions, and broad systems that define a student's beliefs, norms, and boundaries (ACHA, 2016). This level acknowledges the impact of social structures on the likelihood that a person or community may use violence. Examining policies and practices that maintain inequality between people and groups in a community is essential to prevention at the societal level (CDC, 2020).

Some domains of student's social ecology have a more obvious influence on their lives, and in others like the community or society level, the influence was more subtle. There is a connection between each domain or level, where the effects and practices of one level influence the others (Dills et al, 2016). The CDC recommends approaching GBV prevention systematically at each level, and throughout the levels (CDC, 2020); interventions are necessary at all levels of the social ecology in order to reduce gender-based violence (DenGue et al, 2014; American College Health Association [ACHA], 2016; American College Health Association [ACHA], 2018; CDC, 2020; Dills et al, 2016; Townsend, 2017). While this model is helpful in conceptualizing the types of programs necessary to bring about community change, it is not without criticism. The social-ecological model provides helpful guidance in identifying what may need to change across the social-ecological landscape, but "it does not explain how to bring about those changes," (Townsend, 2017, p.1).

Transtheoretical Model

The transtheoretical model (TTM) was developed by Prochaska and DiClemente (see Grimley et al, 1994; Prochaska & DiClemente, 1983, 1984, 1986; Prochaska et a.,

1994 as cited in Banyard 2010). The TTM highlights stages that an individual may progress through as they change negative health behaviors. Figure 6 provides a visual of the TTM and the cycle of the stages; Prochaska and DiClemente noted that the change process is more of a spiral, instead of a linear effort where a final destination is reached



(Banyard, 2010).

Figure 6: Transtheoretical Model

Banyard (2010) provided a simple definition of the stages: Individuals at the first stage, precontemplation, can be unaware that there is a problem and/or have not identified their behavior as a problem; they have no intentions of making change. In the second stage, contemplation, individuals become aware of the problem and have intentions to take action soon. In the third stage, preparation, individuals are either going to take action imminently or begin to take some preparatory actions. Once in the action

stage, individuals have begun to make changes. In the final maintenance stage, individuals are taking active steps to avoid relapse. They may also determine ways to refine or dig deeper into their new behaviors, beginning the cycle again.

The TTM highlights the importance of tailoring change messages to match an intended audience (Banyard, 2010; Exner & Cummings, 2011; Banyard, 2014) and their level of developmental readiness (Banyard, 2013; Banyard, 2014). Different educational tools may be more effective, depending on the audience's readiness for change (Banyard, 2010; Exner & Cummings, 2011; Banyard, 2013; Banyard, 2014; DeGue et al, 2014). If an individual or community was not ready for change, the change messages will not be effective.

Bystander Intervention

National and local guidelines specifically highlight bystander intervention as a required tool to address gender-based violence perpetration. Bystander intervention education attempts to develop a community-level responsibility for addressing GBV by engaging community members who might otherwise be potential witnesses to violence (Henricksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016; Hong, 2017). The hope is that the community members will notice the event and intervene, challenging both the violence itself and the acceptance of violence in the community (Henricksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016; Hong, 2017), ultimately “reducing the rate of GBV perpetration among college students,” (Henricksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016). A bystander needs to move through five steps in order to intervene. Figure 7 displays the steps.

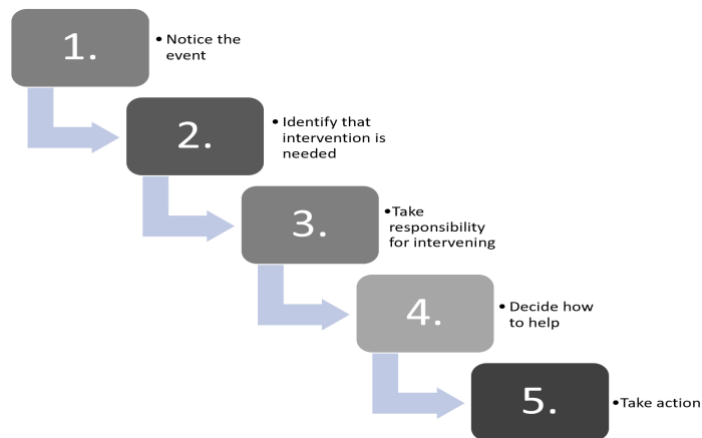


Figure 7: Five Steps of Bystander Intervention

Once having identified a situation in which bystander intervention was needed, the bystander has specific points at which they could prevent further GBV from occurring (McMahon & Banyard, 2012). The bystander can intervene before GBV occurs, during or immediately following GBV perpetration, or in the aftermath of GBV perpetration in support of the victim/survivor (McMahon & Banyard, 2012). These reflect the CDC's (2004) primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention steps. It is important to note that intervening during or even immediately following GBV perpetration is often impossible, as many acts of gender-based violence occurred in private settings away from potential bystanders (Henricksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016).

Overall, bystander intervention has been recognized for its potential to reduce GBV (Banyard, 2011; Coker et al, 2016; Dills et al, 2016), as it engages uninvolved parties as bystanders to interrupt behaviors that may put others at risk. By engaging the broader campus community, instead of only targeting potential victims, bystander intervention is believed to have the capacity to reduce perpetration through changing

attitudes toward sexual assault, changing campus norms, and increasing the feelings of responsibility amongst community members (Exner & Cummings, 2011; Hong, 2017).

Bystander intervention is not without its criticisms. Some bystander curricula are more effective than others; results vary depending on the program used (Coker et al, 2016). Further, the content of the programs is of concern: bystander intervention does not address the root cause of GBV (Hong, 2017). Instead, bystanders are trained to react when risk is high, rather than preventing risk in the first place (Banyard, 2013). In fact, based on the CDC's definition of primary prevention, bystander intervention most closely aligns with secondary prevention (Hong, 2017).

Bystander intervention places responsibility for the prevention of GBV on an entire community (Henricksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016; Hong, 2017). This seemingly simple solution to perpetration actually has unintended negative consequences: "if everyone is responsible [for preventing GBV], then one could conclude that victims share equal responsibility with their assailants..." (Hong, 2017, p.30). This constitutes victim blaming and is a covert tactic to shift responsibility from the perpetrator inflicting harm to other members of the community. Bystander intervention calls for action, and not critical reflection about who actually perpetrates GBV and why they do it. By making everyone responsible, no one feels accountable to confronting the root causes of gender-based violence (Hong, 2017).

Bystander intervention also "presumes everyone is equitably situated in regard to power and privilege in our society and therefore equally able to act or speak up," (Hong, 2017, p.30). However, not everyone who has the opportunity to intervene does take action (Henricksen, Mattick, & Fisher, 2016). Burn (2009) identified five barriers to

bystander intervention, shown in Figure 8. When intersected with power and historical examples of harm, bystander behaviors decrease at significant rates. In a 2017 study, when observing examples of perpetration against Black women peers, White college women reported “less intent to intervene, less personal responsibility to intervene, and greater perceived victim pleasure in the observed act,” (Katz, Merrilees, Hoxmeier, & Motisi, 2017, p.273). Students with historically minoritized identities also stated that their minoritized identities affected their ability to feel safe intervening (McMahon, Burnham, & Barnyard, 2020). Bystander intervention programs should center intersectionality (McMahon, Burnham, & Barnyard, 2020) in order to address the underlying power and control present in GBV perpetration.

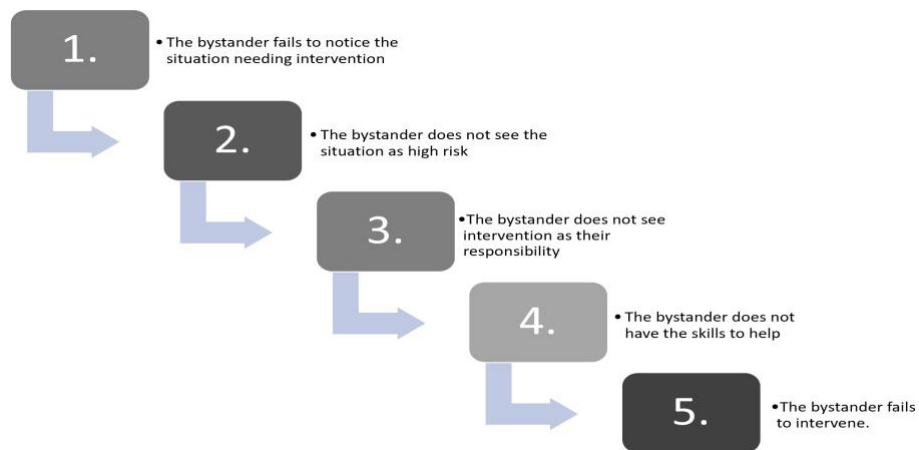


Figure 8: Barriers to Bystander Intervention

In an attempt to remain in compliance with legal requirements, and without specific guidance on program content, many schools have turned to online programs developed at other colleges and universities, or from outside vendors. These programs potentially do not meet the school’s specific needs and may therefore not be effective (Banyard, 2013; Banyard, 2014; DeGue et al, 2014; Schneider & Hirsch, 2018;

McMahon et al, 2019). Additionally, the programs might not address the power systems that underlie GBV perpetration or speak to the specific power dynamics of a particular campus. “Prevention education that intends to have an impact must be sustained over time and be multifaceted, leaning into the complexity of how and why sexual violence occurs,” (Hong, 2017, p. 36); an effective primary prevention program therefore needs to address the role of identity, power, and historical oppression (Harris and Linder, 2017). Developing a program curriculum based on the unique nature of a campus community could increase the efficacy of that program (Dills, Fowler, & Payne, 2016).

Chapter Summary

This chapter served as scaffolding for the university staff or faculty member to become more familiar with gender-based violence. Definitions of GBV and its connection to social power were provided, along with an understanding of the impact of GBV trauma. Historical connections to the perpetration of GBV connect violence to expressions of power and control still present in the US context, especially higher education. A review of legal compliance and guidance helped to contextualize the landscape of GBV programs and response, and a review of the current models used to address GBV were highlighted. Threaded throughout was the consciousness of and focus on power, and its influence on GBV awareness, prevention, and response efforts in the higher education setting. This aligns with the tenets of Linder’s power-conscious framework (2018).

Chapter 3: Methodology

According to Creswell & Creswell (2018), “qualitative methods demonstrate a different approach to scholarly inquiry,” (p.179). This chapter introduces the reader to the unique features and steps of this doctoral research project and outlines the research processes I followed. Specifically, this research project was implemented as a case study, with Downtown University serving as the bounded object under analysis. I used the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram as the primary data set to develop an understanding of the nature of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University. Linder’s (2018) power-conscious framework provided context for examining the Instagram posts. In order to derive meaning from the Instagram posts and place them within a power-conscious framework, I used phenomenology as the method of analysis. This chapter outlines further specifics of the above stated objectives of this doctoral research project.

Review of Research Purpose and Questions

Gender-based violence was an issue of focus at Downtown University following social media-based student activism. As a result of this student activism, the University committed to implementing a four-year curriculum to prevent gender-based violence. I was asked to be a part of the curriculum development and implementation process. Rather than repeat systems of oppression and promote programs that were not rooted in

primary prevention practices, I sought to develop a GBV prevention curriculum that was power-conscious and tailored to the community in which it would be implemented.

Using both a power-conscious framework and the tenets of survivor-centered programs rooted in trauma-informed care was essential to center the community most impacted by gender-based violence: student victims/survivors. Through my research, I sought to understand: What was the nature of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University? In order to uncover further detail about power and perpetration at the University, I examined:

1. What behaviors of GBV were described in survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page?
2. What was the role of power in the experience?
3. What was the effect of power in the experience described?
4. What, if any, actions were called for by the victim/survivor in the Instagram post?

The focus of my research questions was intentional, as “the research question articulates what is and isn’t explored and who is and isn’t under scrutiny.” (Strega & Brown, 2015, p.23). By framing my research questions to examine power, I was able to uncover what was often missing from GBV research: perpetration and its relationship to power.

These questions differed slightly from those of my initial research proposal. I had originally proposed:

1. What behaviors were described in the survivor narratives?
2. What, if any, power dynamics were present?
3. What, if any, response was described?
4. What, if any, next steps are called for?

Using feedback from my research committee, I realized that these original questions did not directly interrogate the presence of power in perpetration; instead, I was replicating the passive tone that left space for power to be dismissed or overlooked. In an effort to directly confront the nature of power in perpetration, I modified my research questions to assume the presence of power and to focus my interrogation, and therefore the reader’s gaze, on a power-conscious approach to confronting gender-based violence. Table 3 illustrates the connection between the new research questions and the research frameworks, as well as a brief explanation of their connection.

Table 3: Connection of Research Questions to Frameworks

Research Question	Connection to Frameworks	Brief Explanation
What behaviors of GBV were described in survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page?	Consider history and context (Linder, 2018) Empowerment, voice, and choice (ACHA, 2018)	Before I could begin to develop a curriculum, I needed to first understand what exactly was being experienced by students, in their own voice. I used the Instagram posts to center victim/survivor voice and choice.
What was the role of power in the experience?	Power is omnipresent (Linder, 2018) Interrogate the role of power in individual interactions, policy development, and practice (Linder, 2018) Consider history and context (Linder, 2018)	Instead of asking IF power is present, I needed to ask HOW it was manifested in order to uncover and draw attention to it. This question interrogated not just the individual or the act, but also the role of power within the system (Linder, 2018). It was important to understand the role of power within the

		University context in order to better understand how “systems of oppression have been engrained and interwoven” into the practices we are operating within today (Linder, 2018, p.27).
What was the effect of power in the experience described?	<p>Name and call attention to dominant group members’ investment in and benefit from systems of domination (Linder, 2018)</p> <p>Consider history and context (Linder, 2018)</p> <p>Cultural, historical, and gender issues (ACHA, 2018)</p>	<p>This question explored the effects of power in the experience described, so as to better uncover “dominant group members’ investment in and benefit from systems of domination” (Linder, 2018, p.14).</p> <p>The history and context considered in question one scaffolded the understanding of the effects of systems of oppression, like GBV. These were considered alongside cultural, historical, and gender issues (ACHA, 2018) that affect students.</p>
What, if any, actions were called for by the victim/survivor in the Instagram post?	<p>Work in solidarity to eradicate oppression (Linder, 2018)</p> <p>Peer support (ACHA, 2018)</p> <p>Collaboration and mutuality (ACHA, 2018)</p>	<p>A power-conscious approach required that I work with impacted communities to enact change (Linder, 2018); otherwise I ran the risk of exercising gatekeeping and/or paternalism, which were expressions of power. Peer support and collaboration were trauma supportive practices for working together (ACHA, 2018).</p>

My new research questions provided insight into the nature of perpetration at Downtown University through a power-conscious lens, as expressed by victim/survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page. These questions correlated to four of the tenets within Linder's power-conscious framework. I was not able to examine two of the six tenets of the framework: "engage in critical consciousness and self-awareness," and "change behaviors based on reflection and awareness," (Linder, 2018, p. 21). These tenets required engagement with the person or institution benefiting from and participating in systems of power, and the data in this research was strictly from the perspective of the victim/survivor. Engagement with these tenets through future research is discussed in Chapter Five.

Research Philosophy

"Researchers have been socialized to conduct research through a power-neutral, objective lens, which has resulted in limited research," (Linder, Grimes, Williams, Lacy, & Parker, 2020, p.1024). In fact, only 11.2% of research conducted on campus-based gender-based violence has utilized qualitative data (Linder, Grimes, Williams, Lacy, & Parker, 2020). Therefore, my research philosophy echoed my research frameworks: power-consciousness and trauma-informed practices. Research has the ability to transform, and it also has the ability to maintain power systems (Strega & Brown, 2015). Through research, I worked to confront implicit power systems that facilitate gender-based violence perpetration. "Scholarship about campus [GBV] may also unintentionally perpetuate or ignore power in both the research practices and the dynamics of sexual violence," (Linder, Grimes, Williams, Lacy, & Parker, 2020, p.1018). Therefore it was essential that I approached research with a power-conscious lens.

One of the tenets of the power-conscious framework was to “work in solidarity to eradicate oppression,” (Linder, 2018, p.21). In order to effectively confront campus-based GBV, I could not work in isolation, or without the population most impacted by GBV perpetration: victims/survivors. A trauma-informed practice places victims/survivors at the center of decision making, and builds a relationship grounded in mutual respect, transparency, and acknowledgement of individual agency (ACHA, 2018; SAMHSA, 2014). These practices also leveled the power dynamics between researcher and subject population. Both power-consciousness and trauma-informed practice guided my research decisions throughout this project.

Community Partner Overview

In order to conduct my research, I first secured community partnership with the University Health Promotion Director. The Director had final approval on any projects, programs, or curricula that were to be implemented; her approval and partnership for this research and intended implementation was essential in order for a power-conscious curriculum to be adopted and utilized. It was not until Fall 2020 that I secured my community partnership agreement with the student survivor activists of @BetterDowntownUniversity. After reflecting on my research process, I did not feel it was appropriate to simply have approval from the University to conduct my research. As I shared in the Literature Review, colleges and universities are sites of replication for social power and dominance; working only in partnership with the University would mean that I was conducting top-down research, which is antithetical to a power-conscious approach and which Strega and Brown (2015) advise against. In order to work with the community I was hoping to better understand, I determined it would be essential for me

to partner with student victims/survivors. I therefore secured a written partnership agreement with the student activists in @BetterDowntownUniversity and worked closely with their student leaders through my data analysis and interpretation phases.

Research Design

This doctoral research project utilized a case study framework as the method of organization and phenomenological processes to analyze the survivor narratives posted on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page. In order to develop a fully informed curriculum, I needed to thoroughly understand the nature of perpetration of gender-based violence at the University. The frame provided by a case study was most appropriate as it “explore[d] a real-life, contemporary bounded system...through detailed, in-depth data collection,” (Creswell, 2013, p.97). Downtown University served as the bounded system; the in-depth exploration focused on first-person experiences of gender-based violence perpetration. By using a case study model, I was able to focus strictly on the University community, and therefore direct my analysis to the community in which it would serve.

Phenomenological analysis allowed me to understand the essential qualities of the experience of perpetration of GBV at Downtown University. I moved from “narrow units of analysis,” (Creswell, 2013, p.79), or codes, to broader units to make meaning, or themes. I then identified summary descriptions that illustrated the shared experience of victims/survivors at Downtown University. I located the themes identified in the summary descriptions using my research questions; these contributed to fuller understanding of gender-based violence perpetration within the bounded case of the University. By utilizing phenomenology within the case study, I was able to retain the

essence of experience as a critical data point within the research. The resulting product was community-specific and focused on power and its relationship to perpetration.

The process for this qualitative research project was emergent. This means that “the initial plan for research [could not] be tightly prescribed, and some or all phases of the process may change or shift after the researcher...[began] to collect data,” (Creswell & Creswell, 2018, p.182). This typically occurs when the researcher goes deeper into the phenomenon under study (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Having Downtown University as the bounded object of inquiry created strict parameters of my research, ensuring that the curriculum to be developed used the data collected and was specific to the community in which it would be implemented. Phenomenology allowed me to explore new themes, ideas, and trends that emerged as part of my research within the case of Downtown University. As my research progressed, any changes or developments were noted.

Data Collection and Analysis

Data collection and analysis helped me to move from specific units or codes, to themes and patterns that can be generalized (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). In my research, I followed a sequential process, wherein I organized the data and prepared it for analysis; reviewed the data and formed first impressions; began coding or assigning chunks of the content representative categories; generated themes from the categories; and reflected the themes against my research questions (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). This process illuminated the nature of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University, as power dynamics and recommendations for prevention.

Data Collection

I began my research process with the review of first-person experience posts made to the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page. The Instagram posts were my sole data source. Using qualitative data from the internet as a data set was not unheard of. As the internet expanded its reach, it presented researchers with a new source of information. While the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account did not look like a traditional research data set, it provided new contexts that may have otherwise been unavailable, given the sensitive nature of some topics. When speaking of online qualitative data, researchers found that

“many of the accounts are written very informally, with numerous spelling and grammatical errors, but with depth of feeling that is usually not present in more formal communication...These feelings may be difficult for an individual to articulate or acknowledge in a face-to-face interview,” (Robinson, 2001, p.709).

This was true of the experiences submitted to the Instagram account.

Before beginning data collection, consideration of the use of this online data was reviewed: “Are the data publicly available, or is there a gatekeeper (i.e., password protection) that controls access to the data? Is there an expectation of privacy in the context in which the data are shared?,” (Robinson, 2001, p.709). In the instance of the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram posts, the account was public, meaning anyone could access and read the posts. The Instagram account was created as a site of social activism, with the intent for others to read the posts; there was no stated expectation of privacy. As such, the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account was a source of rich qualitative data available for public use on the internet that was also supportive of victim/survivor voice and choice.

Upon confirming the utility of the Instagram posts, I drafted and submitted a Human Subject Determination Form to the University Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Because the Instagram account was public, the posts were shared anonymously, and there were no human subjects being interviewed, it was determined that my proposed research project did not require Institutional Research Board (IRB) review and approval. I received a written confirmation from the Research Compliance Monitor at the University and saved it along with my research documentation; it is available upon request, and not shared as an appendix, to protect the anonymity of the University and its survivor community.

Following approval from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, I commenced preparation for data collection. I skimmed the Instagram posts and planned my data collection process. I created a data collection document called “BDU Data Collection Spreadsheet,” in which I developed my anticipated data collection log in Microsoft Excel, shown in Appendix A, in a password-protected cloud drive folder. I anticipated creating two data collection logs on separate sheets, modeled off of Appendix A: one that would be a direct transcription of the Instagram posts, and one that would reflect correction of small typos. I decided to create only one data collection table where I used direct transcriptions of the victim/survivor experiences. While editing for spelling and grammar may make reading the experiences easier, I determined that that was not authentic to the victim/survivor’s experience. The victim/survivor submitted their narrative, and the activists running the account adhered to the fidelity of the submitted experience. Recalling the tenets of trauma-informed care (ACHA, 2018, SAMHSA, 2014), editing the victim/survivor experiences would not only take power away from the

survivor to change their language, it is also not appropriate according to American Psychological Association (APA) and other qualitative research prescriptions [American Psychological Association [APA], 2020; Creswell & Creswell, 2018). I therefore decided to retain the original spelling and grammar of the posts. Spelling and grammar that could be perceived as an error in my analysis was followed by [*sic*], as prescribed by APA conventions (APA, 2020).

Overall, the Instagram account contained posts of experiences submitted by University students, employees, and alumni; they were qualitatively rich and yielded insights into the perpetration of gender-based violence in the Downtown University community. As of March 12, 2021, there were 191 posts on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page (“BetterDowntownUniversity” [BetterDowntownUniversity], 2020). I started transcribing Instagram posts using the data collection table illustrated in Appendix A. After transcribing four posts, I realized that the columns I had created were not supportive of my research process: there were two columns in which I could identify the post, and only one column for me to reflect, code, and connect the post to my research questions. I ultimately adjusted my data collection table to have four headings: Post number (#); Post Content; Codes; and Post Notes. Appendix B illustrates the final model of the table, entitled “All Transcriptions and Annotations”. This table, and all transcribed posts from the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page, can be found in Appendix B.

Each post on the @BetterDowntownUniversity page was assigned a number based on the order it was posted to the Instagram account. Each experience was posted as a picture, so I was unable to copy and paste the exact text of the posts. Instead, I read the

experience from the Instagram post and typed it into the data collection table. Survivor narratives were shared up until post #183, where the @BetterDowntownUniverity activists announced they would no longer be sharing survivor experiences; all posts to #183 were transcribed in the data collection table. I returned to and reread each survivor post on the Instagram account two to three times to validate that I was copying the survivor experience exactly. I created a “Data Collection and Reflection Log” sheet in the Excel document, and journaled throughout the transcription process; my journal and notes can be found in Appendix C.

The data collection document, as well as any notes made throughout, were stored in a password-protected cloud drive. The posts and their content were already de-identified on the public Instagram page, so there was no chance of revealing the identity of the victim/survivor; I still erred on the side of caution and ensured the data and my interpretations were not accessible without the private password. It took approximately one month to read and transcribe each of the Instagram posts. I had anticipated 7-10 days, transcribing up to 25 posts per day. Re-reading the posts was more emotionally and mentally exhausting than I had anticipated, and I took days between transcribing to ground and recenter myself. I wanted to maintain positive mental health to the best of my ability through this process, so that I was able to focus on the data and analysis in a power-conscious way.

Data Analysis

Once I completed transcribing each of the posts, I returned to them and reflected on their overall meaning in relation to my research questions (Creswell & Creswell, 2018); this helped me to narrow down the data set. To recruit or select posts for

qualitative assessment, I selected only those that described gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University; there were 147 (“BetterDowntownUniversity” [@BetterDowntownUniversity], 2020). Nineteen posts described GBV that took place outside of the University community and/or otherwise did not meet the parameters of the primary research question, and 25 posts were educational or informative material made by the student activists on the @BetterDowntownUniversity account and did not include survivor narratives. Ensuring diversity in my recruitment was difficult, as I was only able to ascertain the identities of the people described in the experiences using details shared by the victim/survivor. Limitations and boundaries to my research are discussed in Chapter Five.

I copied the 147 selected posts into a second sheet in my Excel document titled “Relevant Post Transcriptions and Annotations”. This sheet had the same headings as “All Transcriptions and Annotations”; selected posts for analysis can be found in Appendix D. As I re-read each post, I made notes of themes, trends, patterns, and ideas. Once these posts were moved into a separate sheet (“Relevant Post Transcriptions and Annotations”), I downloaded the sheet and attempted to upload it to the data analysis software program, Nvivo. Unfortunately, each time I tried to upload the file, the program was not able to read my spreadsheet. I ultimately decided that coding and note-taking in my original spreadsheet would be sufficient, given my timeframe for completion. I also considered that colleagues and other preventionists may not have access to software such as Nvivo, so modeling a research process using programs that are more widely available, such as Excel, was supportive to my process and research intentions. Boundaries to my research resulting from using Excel are discussed in Chapter Five.

Using my notes in the “Post Notes” column, I returned to each post and highlighted repeat behaviors, phrases, and descriptions within each post using color-coding to illuminate each unit of meaning. Coding was a cyclical, multistep process, as recommended by Saldaña (2016); throughout the coding cycles, I developed different code types and categories. This process yielded a list of 32 unique codes or units of meaning. The codes reflected specific types such as expected, descriptive, concept, and attribute (Saldana, 2016; Creswell & Creswell, 2018). In vivo and hypothesis codes were also identified (Saldana, 2016). These 32 codes or units of meaning were distinct and at times interrelated, yielding instances of sub-codes. I used language from the victim/survivor narratives to define the codes and began to map the codes onto my research questions. This was done in a sheet titled “Codes”; this can be seen in Table 4, which provides a visual of the codes and their organization.

Table 4: Codes Table

Research Question	Code	Code Frequency	Definition or Explanation	Code Type
What behaviors of GBV were described in survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page?	DV	11	domestic violence, dating abuse	Expected; descriptive
	SA	111	sexual assault, unwanted sexual touching	Expected; descriptive
	DFSA	42	Drug (including alcohol) facilitated SA	Expected; descriptive
	ST	6	stalking	Expected; descriptive
	HA	26	harassment, sexual harassment	Expected; descriptive
	DFHA	1	Drug (including alcohol) facilitate HA	Expected; descriptive

What is the role of power in the experience?	Power-Social	61	Perpetrator holds an identity with social power such as fraternity, RA, athlete, etc	Concept; subcode
	Power-Relational	56	Perpetrator is friend, partner, date, etc; trust is/was present in relationship	Concept; subcode
	Power-Institutional	37	Reporting, law enforcement, actions not taken by the University etc	Concept; subcode
	Freshman	51	Victim/survivor indicates that experience happened their first/freshman year on campus	Expected; attribute
	FSL	24	The perpetrator is described as being associated with a fraternity or sorority	Attribute
	Masc perp	122	person committing the harm is identified using he/him pronouns	Expected; attribute;
	Fem perp	5	person committing the harm is identified using she/her pronouns	Expected; attribute
	GN perp	8	person committing the harm is identified using gender neutral pronouns	Expected; attribute
	LGBTQ	3	V/S indicates that they are part of the LGBTQ community (use of grindr, same-gender pronouns, states sexuality. etc)	Attribute
	Secondary survivor	3	A person other than the victim/survivor is sharing the experience of impact	Attribute
	Employee	3	Person submitting the story is a staff or faculty member	Attribute
	Force	27	Perpetrator uses force to perpetrate GBV	In Vivo
	Pressure	19	Perpetrator uses pressure or coercion to perpetrate GBV	In Vivo
	Not taking a no	41	Victim/survivor says no and the perpetrator continues or forces DV/SA/SH/ST	Hypothesis; process
	AC-unable to confirm	26	Perpetrator was not able to confirm V/S consented (e.g. they were passed out) and assumed they consented	Hypothesis; subcode

	AC-shift	34	Perpetrator moved from one consensual sexual activity to a different activity without confirming consent	Hypothesis; subcode
What is the effect of power in the experience described?	VS impact	89	Post describes the effect of GBV on the victim/survivor	Descriptive
	Unaware	24	Victim/survivor didn't realize that DV/SA/SH/ST counted or was GBV	Descriptive
	No idea	4	Perpetrator did not know what they were doing was GBV	In vivo
	Victim blame	10	The V/S is victim blamed for their experience of GBV	Descriptive
	DNR	18	Did not report their experience of GBV	Descriptive
	Did Report	11	V/S did report their experience	Descriptive
What, if any, actions are called for by the victim/survivor in the Instagram post?"	CTA-perp	4	The V/S or poster addresses perp in their call to action; confronts power	Subcode
	CTA-response	11	The V/S or poster calls for improved support for other V/S; does not confront power	Subcode
	CTA-names behavior	8	V/S names that GBV is not ok; confronts behavior, not root cause (power)	Subcode
	CTA-university	11	VS addresses University in their call to action	Subcode

Once I had my list of codes and sub-codes, I counted the frequency of each code's occurrence. The frequency data is listed in the "Code Frequency" column in Table 4 (above). Using code frequencies, I noted co-occurrence of codes. I created a sub-table on the "Codes" sheet titled "Intersections" and noted the frequency of the co-occurrence of themes; this table is shown below in Table 5.

Table 5: Intersections Table

Intersections
SA + Power-social: 42
SA+ power-relational: 53
Masc perp + Power-social: 52
Masc perp + power-relational: 52
Masc perp + freshman: 46
Masc perp +force or pressure: 40
Masc perp + Not taking a no: 40
Masc perp + AC-unable to confirm or shift: 62
Not taking a no (41) + pressure or force (25)
Unaware+DNR: 8
Freshman + power-social: 24
Freshman + power-relational: 21
Power-relational + not taking a no: 23
Power-relational + pressure or force: 17
Power-relational + AC-shift or unable to confirm: 34

Using the codes, my journaling and post notes, and the co-occurrence frequency, I began to identify themes. These themes became apparent when the codes were mapped over my research questions. Creswell & Creswell (2018) recommend between five and seven themes for a research project. Given the specificity of my research questions, I identified 10 unique themes overall; each research question had between two and four themes correspond to it. By looking at the codes as indicators of a broader theme, I was able to bring forth a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the nature of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University. Table 6 shows the connection

between themes identified, the codes that support the theme, and the research question that the theme corresponds to.

Table 6: Themes Table

Theme	Definition or Explanation	Codes that Support Theme	Connection to Research Question
Power across the social-ecological model	Power is expressed across the social-ecological model. Victims/survivors experienced power-based harm across the domains of the social-ecological model: at the relationship level, social level, and institutional level. Being unaware of their experience as an instance of perpetration, as well as self-blame for the event, indicate internalized power dynamics expressed at the individual level.	Power-relational, power-social, power-institutional, unaware	Q2
Masculinity	Masculinity is connected to power. Perpetrators with he/him pronouns were identified across instances of GBV. Predominantly masculine spaces, like fraternities, also demonstrated elements of power and control. Some men articulated the power and dominant socialization associated with masculinity.	Masc perpetrator, power-social	Q2
Fraternity Membership	Fraternities created environments where the expression of power and control was normalized. Perpetrators who belonged to a fraternity	FSL, masculinity, victim blame, HA, power-social, power-relational	Q2

	used GBV perpetration to maintain power and control, and this behavior was normalized.		
Academic year	First year students are vulnerable and are therefore more likely to be targeted by perpetrators. For a large number of victims/survivors, their experience of GBV occurred during their first year on campus. Given that these students are new to the University community, they hold less social power and are likely to be identified as vulnerable targets for perpetration.	Freshman, power-social, power-relational, force, pressure, not taking a no, AC-unable to confirm, AC-shift	Q2
Entitlement	Power was expressed through entitlement to the survivor or to the sexual act. In instances where the perpetrator was identified as masculine, this aligns with social dominance with masculinity and its assumed entitlement to power and control.	Force, pressure, not taking a no, AC-unable to confirm, AC-shift; CTA-perp; How often do these codes intersect with Masc perpetrator?	Q3
Power and control is to be expected	Power and perpetration are seen as normal or to-be-expected events in the college experience. Victim blaming, not reporting, and addressing other victim/survivors within calls to action highlighted the adoption of rape-supportive attitudes, where GBV was considered an expected part of the University experience. The	victim blame, unaware, no idea, DNR, CTA-response	Q3

	victim/survivor being unaware that their experience was an act of GBV, as well as the perpetrator not realizing, are further examples of the adoption and normalization of beliefs around power and perpetration.		
Maintenance of power and control	Power is maintained through implicit belief and explicit actions. Actions to maintain current systems of power and control became evident through victim blaming, some instances of harassment following a victim/survivor making a report, and also when the call to action focused on response, instead of confronting power.	some HA, victim blame, CTA-response	Q3
Addressing power	The victim/survivor calls for change by addressing the perpetrator, the behavior, or the system.	CTA-perp, CTA-names behavior, CTA-university	Q4
Reclaiming power	Through sharing their experience of GBV, the victim/survivor described feelings of empowerment and strength to move forward	VS impact	Q4

Throughout my data analysis process, I triangulated my findings with campus experts and colleagues. I shared my insights and presented initial codes and developed themes with members from the University's Health and Counseling Center Gender Violence Services Committee, as well as their confidential advocacy staff. While these colleagues were not able to participate at length or perform as a research partner, they

nonetheless provided me with clarity and perspective different from my own as a preventionist. These meetings helped me to refine my analysis and provided additional perspective into my understanding of the data, and therefore the nature of gender-based violence at Downtown University.

I also sought input from the student activists who ran @BetterDowntownUniversity. In order to “identify, understand, and take action against problems,” I needed to involve “the people who are most affected by the problem, through the research process,” (Creswell, 2018, p. 125). I shared my notes and critical reflexivity reflections to practice transparency and gathered the students’ input as I developed codes. Supporting research shows that when research involves members of the community as co-researchers, it ensures authentic dialogue and lessens the threats of further oppression of a group in a research study (Creswell, 2018; Freire, 2018). This process led me to more questions and a more complex understanding of the experience of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University. It also highlighted gaps in the data, which presented opportunities for future research or collaboration with the student community; this is discussed in Chapter Five.

Validity and Reliability

Both validity and reliability were essential to maintaining the accuracy and credibility of this research project. In order to protect the validity of the research, I utilized multiple approaches, as recommended by Creswell and Creswell (2018): I used multiple experiences to justify the identification of themes; I worked with community partners at @BetterDowntownUniversity to determine the accuracy of my findings; I used “rich, thick description” (p.200) to illustrate what I found; I continued to practice

critical reflexivity to identify my biases in the research process; and I debriefed with my colleagues in gender-based violence topics at the University to review my data and findings.

The specific data collected at Downtown University was meant to inform the creation of gender-based violence prevention programs for the Downtown University community, and the processes of my research project was documented to track the reliability of the study. I detailed my processes, examined transcripts for errors, ensured that I abided by the identified codes, and practiced uniformity so that code definitions remained consistent. I do not believe the themes identified in the data should be used to inform another campus's programs. However, the data collection and analysis processes are broadly applicable, should a colleague wish to replicate the methods of the study on their own campus.

Boundaries of Methodology

This research process presented some potential boundaries that should be addressed. First, this study intentionally did not interview survivors. Qualitative research typically involves multiple data sets and in-person interviews as part of data collection (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). As stated in "Data Collection and Analysis," this decision was intentional: to respect the decisions of victims/survivors. They have selected @BetterDowntownUniversity as their chosen platform, and I felt it was appropriate to respect that decision as part of trauma-informed practice. Social media activism is also a growing practice among college students (Linder, Myers, Riggle, & Lacy, 2016). When conducting a search for sources supporting my process, I did not come across another study that replicated my intended methods. This could be viewed as a limitation, however

I believe my processes aligned with qualitative research practice, and further, that this doctoral research project presented a new method for other professionals to pursue should similar social media activism take place on their campuses.

Given the discrete nature of this research project, considerations of the data collection and analysis were made. Specifically, there was one data source in this research project, and no human subjects were involved. This was intentional: the victims/survivors at Downtown University selected the @BetterDowntownUniversity as their site of experience sharing. In order to maintain a trauma-informed practice, I worked to center the voice and choice of the victims/survivors (ACHA, 2018; SAMHSA 2014). The survivors did not choose institutional research and reports to share their experiences (“Downtown University”, 2018; “Downtown University”, 2020b). Instead, they chose a platform where they could control their narratives. As such, I only used the information they chose to share. By doing so, I hoped to avoid retraumatization and aid in their healing processes (SAMHSA, 2014).

Ethical Considerations

In order to conduct effective research, and develop appropriate analysis of the data collected, it was essential that I remained aware of any biases and experiences and bracket them appropriately for the study; this was done in the “Data Collection and Reflection Log”, shared in Appendix C. I used this reflection log to document emerging thoughts, pose questions, and take note of my process. It was also essential for me to reflect on my social and personal identities, and how they influenced my interpretation of the Instagram posts. More information about myself, my background, and my motivations as a researcher were shared in Chapter 1.

Chapter 4: Findings

Through analyzing the Instagram posts, it became clear that expressions of power were multidimensional and often co-occurred to create complex experiences of power and control within the survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page. The themes that surfaced aligned with the research questions, presenting intersections between the role of power, the effects of power, and the actions of victims/survivors. These are illustrated in Table 7.

Table 7: Connection of Research Question to Theme

Research Question	Theme or Finding
What behaviors of GBV were described in survivor narratives on the “@BetterDowntownUniversity” Instagram page?	Described in “Overview of Research Findings”
What is the role of power in the experience?	Power across the social-ecological model, Masculinity, Fraternity Membership, Academic year
What is the role of power in the experience?	Entitlement, Power and control is to be expected, Maintenance of power and control
What, if any, actions are called for by the victim/survivor in the Instagram post?”	Addressing power, Reclaiming power

In the following chapter, I outline the themes and content uncovered within the Instagram posts. Specifically, the themes speak to the overall experience, or phenomenon, of GBV perpetration within the case of Downtown University. The relevant codes and themes uncovered are connected to the research questions. Direct quotes from the victims/survivors illustrate the meaning and experience of the theme described. This

chapter will not include recommendations based on the themes; instead, this chapter tells the story of power within GBV-perpetration at Downtown University.

Description of Research Case

Victim/survivor narratives were taken from the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account. Posts that met specific criteria were included: the post was submitted by an anonymous victim/survivor; the post described an experience of gender-based violence perpetration; and the experience of GBV perpetration took place at Downtown University during the victim/survivor's time affiliated with Downtown University (e.g., experiences that included childhood experiences of GBV perpetration were not included in the data set). Posts that were excluded were either created by the activists managing the Instagram account and were therefore not anonymous, did not contain an experience of GBV perpetration, or included GBV perpetration that did not occur at Downtown University. This was not meant to create a value hierarchy between the posts; experiences of GBV perpetration that did not occur at Downtown University are not less impactful or valid than those that did. This exclusion process was done to align to the primary research question, What is the nature of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University?

The resulting examples of gender-based violence perpetration described in the selected posts from the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram occurred over an undetermined amount of time: experiences were shared by victims/survivors who identified as current students, staff, or faculty as well as alumni and community members from 10 or more years ago. The location varied from experience to experience, with some taking place on campus and in residence halls and others taking place off-campus at

events, bars, organization housing, and/or in private residences. Regardless of being on- or off-campus, the majority of instances of GBV perpetration occurred in private, away from friends and peers who might witness or intervene in the act.

In most of the selected experiences, the identities of the victim/survivor were not disclosed or obvious. In three of the posts the victim/survivor indicated that they were a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and in five posts the victim/survivor indicated that they were a man. In the remaining posts, the gender identity and sexuality of the victim/survivor was unknown. None of the posts included details that indicated the race or ethnicity of the victim/survivor or that of the perpetrator(s). It should be noted that Downtown University is a predominantly White university. Therefore Whiteness, as a dominant identity with associated power, influenced the entirety of campus - including perpetrators of gender-based violence.

Overview of Research Findings

Initial findings were uncovered by exploring the first research sub-question, “What behaviors of gender-based violence were described in survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page?”. This analysis of the Instagram posts yielded frequency data that could be helpful for prevention educators and University employees to establish a baseline understanding of GBV perpetration on their campus. For instance, a masculine perpetrator was identified in 122 of the 147 experiences of GBV perpetration. The majority of instances of gender-based violence perpetration were identified as sexual assault or unwanted sexual touching; these constituted 111 of the 147 posts. In instances where the victim/survivor described an experience of sexual assault, 42 instances were facilitated by drugs and/or alcohol. In 51 of the posts, the

victim/survivor was a first-year student at the time of their experience of GBV perpetration.

Experiences that described a co-occurrence of power, identity, and behavior codes were noted. For instance, perpetration of sexual assault co-occurred with the “Power-social” code 42 out of 111 times and with the “Power-relational” code 53 out of 111 times. The “Masculine perpetrator” identity code was listed with the social and relational power codes each 52 times out of 122. The “Masculine perpetrator” code was also noted with control-based behavior codes: “Force” or “Pressure”, “Not taking a no”, and assuming consent where either the perpetrator was not able to confirm consent due to the victim/survivor being incapacitated or by switching from one consensual act to an act that was not consented to by the victim/survivor. Other identity codes included “Freshman”, noted a total of 51 times, co-occurring with both the social power and the relational power codes.

In all instances where the perpetrator was described as having no idea that their behavior constituted GBV perpetration, all of the perpetrators were men. Additionally, in all of the posts coded with an LGBTQ victim/survivor, there were shared co-occurring codes: “masculine perpetrator” and control-based behaviors (“pressure”, “force”, or “not taking a no”). In two of the three posts coded with an LGBTQ victim/survivor, “victim blame” was also a repeated code.

Some instances of co-occurrence were behavior-based, where for example a perpetrator “not taking a no” was coded. In 25 out of 41 instances, “pressure” or “force” was coded when the “not taking a no” code was also present. Where relational power was present, control-based behaviors - “not taking a no”, “pressure” or “force”, and assuming

consent by either shifting to a new, non-consensual act or not being able to confirm consent co-occurred - also co-occurred.

Noticing these co-occurrences formed the foundation for clustering the codes or units of meaning together to form themes. It was tempting to look simply at the frequency of the codes and the number of times one code occurred with another. While understanding the frequency and type of gender-based violence victims/survivors experienced is important information to have when developing a prevention curriculum, it does not present a complete picture of perpetration. Rather, "...counting conveys a quantitative orientation of magnitude and frequency contrary to qualitative research," (Creswell, 2013, p.185). Looking only at type, frequency, and co-occurrence would have reduced the experiences of GBV to a one-dimensional understanding of perpetration. Therefore, the occurrence and co-occurrence of codes is presented only as a compliment to the themes identified by investigating the data through the research questions.

What is the Role of Power?

The second research sub-question, "What is the role of power in the experience?" guided the identification of themes that highlighted how power was present in the victim/survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page. This question interrogated not just the individual or the act, but also the role of power within the system (Linder, 2018); this was central to understanding how "systems of oppression have been engrained and interwoven" within the University context (Linder, 2018, p.27). By asking *how* power was present instead of *if* it was, I was able to uncover the presence of power and draw attention to its effects on gender-based violence perpetration. This yielded four specific themes: the presence of power across students' social ecology, the

role of masculinity and its associated socialized power, fraternity affiliation, and the influence of power on academic year. In many instances, these themes overlapped; the following subsections define the themes, provide examples, and highlight the role of power in GBV perpetration at Downtown University.

Power Across Students' Social Ecology

The Social-Ecological Model (Figure 5, p.62) highlights the distinct yet interconnected domains of a student's ecology that effect and influence their lived experience and development on a college campus. Survivor narratives on the @BetterDowntownUniversity described experiences of GBV perpetration that illustrated power that occurred within each domain and across domains to inform the role of power across the University system. The following sections describe the role of power in each domain.

Individual Level. The individual domain of the social-ecological model encompasses a student's knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and self-concept (ACHA, 2016). Power manifested at this level of the model was evident in beliefs about GBV perpetration, attitudes toward victims/survivors following victimization, and overall knowledge of what constituted GBV perpetration. These concepts were identified with codes "Unaware", "Victim Blame", and/or "VS Impact". Posts with these units of meaning described instances where victims/survivors internalized their experience, described feelings of self-blame, and in some cases did not report or seek help following their experience of GBV perpetration because they either did not know it constituted GBV perpetration or they blamed themselves for the perpetration.

Not being aware that their experience constituted GBV perpetration was a code that was highlighted in this theme; post #111 captured the essence of this code: “I honestly don't know if what happened to me constitutes sexual assault... I didn't tell him to stop and he didn't aggressively force me into anything, but I did not want any of that to happen.” The victim/survivor described an experience of unwanted sexual contact in the post but is not sure or aware that their experience counts as GBV perpetration.

Being unaware of that their experience constituted GBV perpetration contributed to individual-level maintenance of power and control beliefs. The victim/survivor in #110 illustrated internalized feelings of self-blame and minimization: “I thought for the longest time this was just me being a stupid drunk and my mistake, my fault... I never reported this incident because I knew it wasn't worth it. I knew nobody would really care about it. I knew it would be brushed off like no big deal.” Other victims/survivors spoke to the connection between self-blame, not seeking support, and the lasting effects of their internalized beliefs: “I felt like it was my fault for going over there in the first place so I justified it to myself and didn't report it. It still haunts me to this day,” (post #89). Some victims/survivors internalized their experience so deeply that it took years for them to name their experience as GBV perpetration, as in post #174: “It took me several years to realize and admit to myself that I had been raped,”; or in post #84: “I hid it for years. I didn't understand why I froze when with other sexual partners”.

Victim/survivor posts also described others blaming the victim/survivor for their experience of GBV perpetration, therefore communicating that GBV perpetration was an individual-level problem. In post #109, family and friends identified the victim/survivor drinking as the cause of GBV perpetration, even though power is the root cause of all

GBV perpetration: “I was raped at a party off campus. I was blamed by family members and friends who said it was my fault that it happened, it was my fault because I was drunk.” Instances of victim blaming also illustrated how individual victims/survivors were kept at a further power disadvantage; post #37 named the intersection of having a minoritized identity and being blamed for a resulting perpetration of GBV. The victim/survivor shared, “I told my parents hoping that they could help me figure out how to do something about it. When instead they told me it’s my fault for acting that way, it was bound to happen to me since I’m gay, and that it’s my fault it happened to me for not being careful enough.” The victim/survivor was told that their sexuality was the cause of their experience of GBV perpetration, instead of the power systems that privilege heterosexual people.

These are examples of the role of power as it is expressed at the individual level, where the victim/survivor held themselves responsible or were held responsible by others for the perpetration experienced. In some cases, the victim/survivor did not identify their experience as GBV perpetration until after the fact. Power at this level redirected the responsibility of perpetration to the victim/survivor, instead of the person with power perpetrating the harmful act. These instances highlighted the role of power in the individual domain as a tool to uphold social beliefs and practices that privileged some and further minoritized others. Figure 9 provides a visual summary of this theme.

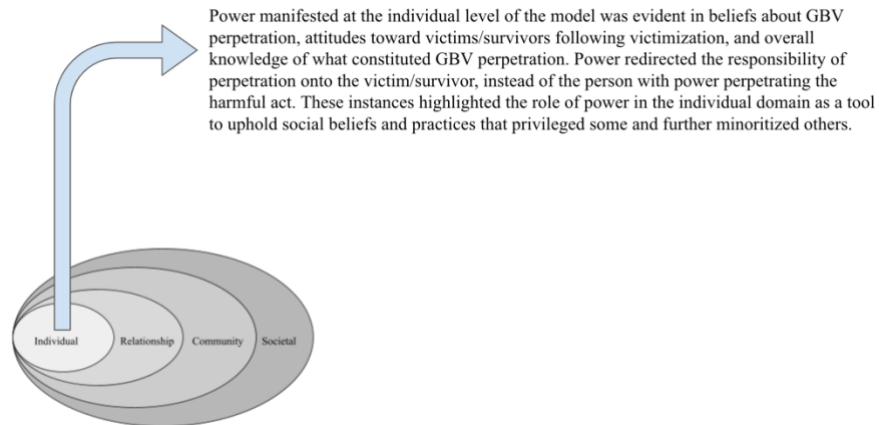


Figure 9: Power Expressed at the Individual Level

Relationship Level. The relationship context encompasses the immediate social connections of a victim/survivor (ACHA, 2016). Power at this level was expressed in posts that described perpetration of GBV in close and/or trusting relationships and was noted using the “Power-relational” code. This code appeared alongside a number of behavioral and identity codes including sexual assault (“SA”), “Assumed consent”, and “Masc perpetrator”. The code “Freshman” also co-occurred with the “Power-relational” code; the intersections of these codes are discussed in later portions of this chapter. These co-occurrences highlight how power was present within and across domains, and inform future themes discussed later in this chapter.

When the “Power-relational” code was identified in a post, the victim/survivor described the perpetrator as their significant other, someone that they had a crush on, someone that they had recently started dating, or someone they considered to be a friend. A hallmark of this code was an element of trust in the relationship, as illustrated in post #26: “This was a guy I considered a friend who I thought I could trust and wouldn’t take

advantage of me.” Another victim/survivor described the perpetrator as someone they “usually felt safe with and had known for a while,” (post #43), conveying trust in the person. Sometimes the element of trust was not explicitly stated, as in #161: “...I never truly expected [*sic*] that I was raped... he was my boyfriend...”; the trust was implied because of the relationship.

Within the context of the relationship, victims/survivors described expectations of sex or intimate activity. Post #12 provided an example: “My freshman year, I met a guy and we started to hang out a lot. We started to have sex occasionally and after that, every time we hung out, he wanted to have sex.” The victim/survivor in post #12 goes on to describe elements of power and control when the perpetrator was met with resistance to their expectations: “After a few times, he started to pressure me into doing things I wasn’t comfortable with. I tried telling him this but he always guilted me into doing it.” The perpetrator would also take advantage of the trust in the relationship to assume consent: “Once I fell asleep in his dorm and I woke up to him putting his dick inside me. I didn’t know what to do,” (post #12). This post highlighted the role of power within a relationship context: the perpetrator took advantage of the trust within the relationship to exercise power and control.

In some posts, power was exercised through harmful and/or violent behaviors within the relationship context, identified with the code “DV”. In post #69, the victim/survivor described the elements of power and control present in their dating relationship:

“He was always extremely jealous and constantly accused me of cheating on him when I did nothing to make him not trust me. He demanded that I

show him my texts with all of my friends and he tracked my location all of the time, and made me cut off several platonic relationships because he was so jealous. When he got drunk, he would scream in my face, and when I tried to diffuse the situation or even just walk away, he would become way more aggressive and I genuinely feared he would hurt me. He also knew that I am a survivor of sexual abuse and assault, and that I have been in intensive treatment for PTSD, yet he would constantly pressure me into having sex with him and when we didn't have sex, he would tell me he felt like I didn't care about him anymore. No matter how drunk I was, or how many times I turned him down, he would always end up coercing me into having very rough sex with him.”

The behaviors described are examples of tactics used in abusive relationships where the perpetrator exercises dominance over the victim/survivor; they are reflective of behaviors highlighted in the power and control wheel portrayed in the Defining Gender-Based Violence section of the Literature Review. The role of power was to maintain control.

Some victims/survivors also described the role of power in relationships between their friends and the person who perpetrated GBV. For example, in post #44, when the victim/survivor was intoxicated and being led away from a party, they said that their friends knew “the guy who was leading me away from the party”. Because the perpetrator was someone known and trusted by the friend group, they did not see an emergent risk or the need to intervene. Relational power with a friend group overlaps

with the “Power-social” code, where social power was a mediating factor for GBV perpetration. Social power is discussed in the next section.

Power expressed within the relationship domain of a victim/survivor’s social ecology was rooted in the leveraging of trust. Relationships connotated deeper connection and intimacy, as well as reduced suspicion of the behaviors of those involved in the relationship. Trust implied respect and reduced the need to question behaviors; it also placed a higher value on the connection shared between parties. As a result, victims/survivors described feelings of obligation to trusted partners and reduced motivation to question unwanted behaviors. The role of power at the relationship level was therefore a normalizing presence: it minimized gender-based violence perpetration and reduced suspicion of potential perpetrators via the trust held in relationships. Figure 10 illustrates this theme.

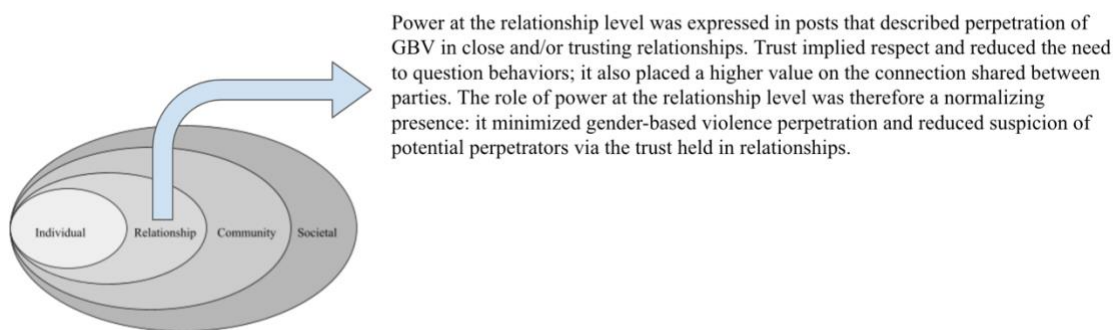


Figure 10: Power Expressed at the Relationship Level

Community Level. The community context incorporates the student’s social networks as well as the implicit and explicit norms or expectations therein (ACHA, 2016). Power at this level was expressed in posts that described perpetration of GBV where the perpetrator held an identity assigned with greater social power than the

victim/survivor. This included prominence within a friend group; membership to a fraternity, sorority, or sports team; or dynamics where the perpetrator was in a higher grade level than the victim/survivor. In some instances, the perpetrator was aware of their social power, and used it to exert control over the victim/survivor. Each of these experiences was noted using the “Power-social” code.

Some perpetrators used social power to minimize the magnitude of their actions. For example, in post #127 when the victim/survivor tried to seek support after a friend touched and kissed them without consent, their mutual friends minimized their experience because the perpetrator was “...still friends with a lot of [their] friends, everyone [saw] him as a good guy...”. The perpetrator benefitted from the social power afforded to him via his relationships. Some people decided to believe or support the perpetrator due to social relationships, as seen in post #143: “I dated a guy in [Fraternity] my sophomore year. One day after the bars I was with him at the frat house and his best friend called me a whore in front of his other frat friends. My then boyfriend did not do anything to defend me and stayed silent as I broke down in tears. He proceeded to defend his friend throughout our whole relationship and made me feel guilty and ashamed.” Social power protected perpetrators via their relationships.

The effects of social power were compounded when the victim/survivor had less social power as a first-year student, as seen in post #104: “I was a freshman then, and it took me two years to realize what happened to me was even a sexual assault. He was a well-liked athlete and several years older than [*sic*] I was, and I was afraid of the social repercussions of reporting.” Both posts #143 and #140 described the intersection of social power and social identity, which highlighted the way power was present within and

across the domains of a victim/survivor's social ecology. Both will be described in greater detail in later sections.

Social power was used to maintain control over victims/survivors. The power could be implied, as in post #112 where the perpetrator is described as, “[coming] from a lot of money and... a varsity wrestler.” Or power was explicitly named in order to influence the actions of the victim/survivor. In post #70, the victim/survivor stated that they wanted to report their experience of GBV perpetration but did not because their perpetrator “had told [them] that nobody would believe [them] and it wouldn't matter because he's rich.” When the victim/survivor in post #63 declined future dates with their perpetrator, the perpetrator responded by “sending [them] awful threats telling [them] I'd get kicked out of the school because his dad worked there...” The role of power across the social domain influenced perpetration and the perceptions of perpetrators. As demonstrated post #70, social power intersected with power via institutional connections; the role of the institution and its adherence to power structures is explored in the next section.

Within the community domain, power maintained social hierarchies and acted as a tool to facilitate gender-based violence perpetration. In a number of instances, the power associated with social identities and networks was implied; the victim/survivor recognized the power of belonging to an organization or team, for instance, and that power influenced the victim/survivor's actions. In other instances, the perpetrator was aware of their power within the community level of the social ecology and used it to exercise power and control over the victim/survivor. The role of power was to, again,

normalize gender-based violence perpetration and power dynamics within the University community. Figure 11 illustrates this theme.

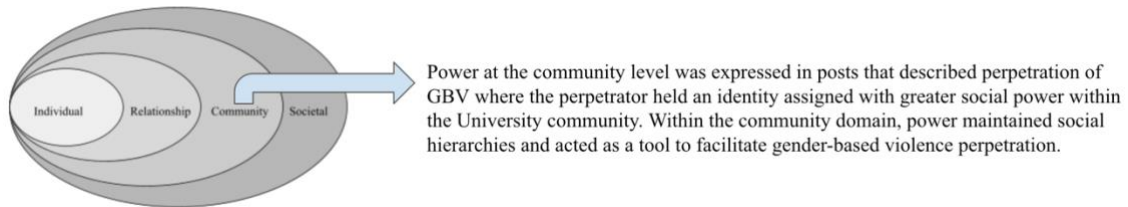


Figure 11: Power Expressed at the Community Level

Societal Level. The societal level encompasses institutions and broad systems that define a student’s beliefs, norms, and boundaries (ACHA, 2016). The role of power at the societal level was expressed in posts that described systems, such as the University system or reporting mechanisms like the police. It was especially evident in posts that highlighted the effects of poor institutional response. Supporting victims/survivors following an experience of GBV preparation is central to trauma-informed care and should be a priority for every campus. The purpose of this research project, though, was not to uncover issues with reporting since responding to gender-based violence will not prevent it from occurring. Instead, posts that highlighted poor institutional response that failed to prevent further harm were noted. Posts that were assessed included responses from both law enforcement and the University, as well as instances that demonstrated the power that the University had. Each of these experiences was noted using the “Power-institutional” code. Figure 12 provides a visual representation of this theme.

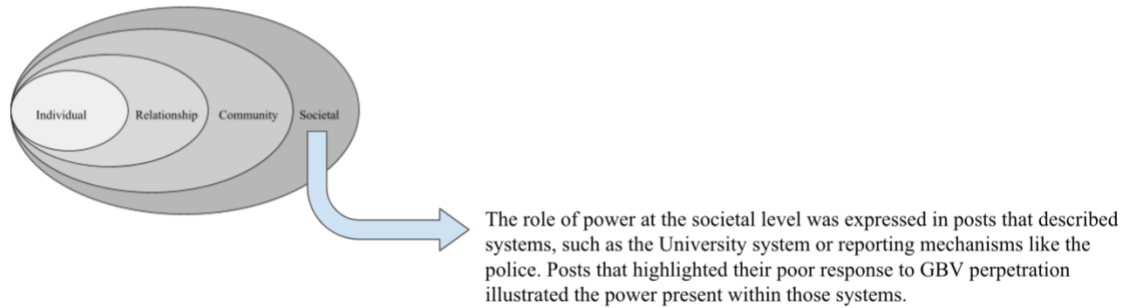


Figure 12: Power Expressed at the Societal Level

Following an experience of GBV perpetration, some victims/survivors sought help to prevent further harm. Using the power associated with their societal influence, both law enforcement and the University could have intervened to prevent future harm. However, by not utilizing their power, perpetration of gender-based violence was able to continue, as described in post #79:

“I caught a man masturbating in the library not once, not twice, but three times... I contacted campus safety immediately... The man then left, and campus safety said they couldn't do anything. [The police] asked if I wanted to press charges and I said no.. I asked campus safety to notify people about this guy, as it happened more than once on campus, and the man was very recognizable... nobody did anything.”

The University’s societal power had the capacity to influence community-level power, which highlighted the connections between the domains of victim/survivors’ social ecology. For example, in post #30 the victim/survivor shared: “Word spread to a fraternity [about my report], and they publicly ridiculed me for it...They called me a slut, a bitch, and a liability for “having drunk sex and calling it rape.” I reported all of the

backlash to the school, constantly meeting with administration, and even having my parents visit with the chancellor....” This victim/survivor looked for help from institutional leadership who held the power to address ongoing harassment, but the University did not appear to use the power associated with its role in the community to intervene. This led to further experiences of harm.

When actions were taken to prevent further harm from a perpetrator, such as campus bans or trespass orders, victims/survivors experienced gaps in these protections. This is evidence in post #39:

“... I spoke to the [staff] in [the residence hall] and some other person who’s title I’m forgetting...They straight up asked me if I was doing anything to lead [the perpetrator] on, and if I was interested in him and asked me other inappropriate questions... I even had texts that he sent me in which he stated he was on drugs and another text that stated, “I moved away from my dorm because I was afraid I was going to hurt you.” They then proceeded to tell me that they couldn’t help me because he hadn’t actually done anything to me yet. Which I essentially translated to when he does finally physically sexually assault you then come back to us.”

This post highlights the way in which an institution such as the University has the power to stop GBV perpetration from occurring and/or continuing; it also demonstrates how the failure to use or interrogate power leads to expressions of power across a victim/survivor’s social ecology. It articulates expressions of power within the individual and relationship domains, where the victim/survivor is blamed for their experience and

their relationship to the perpetrator is indicated as the cause of the harm experience. Forcing a student to endure further harm until it meets a qualifying threshold for an institution to use its power to intervene created opportunities for the perpetrator to escalate and inflict further harm. It also assigned power to the perpetrator and took away power or agency from the victim/survivor.

Throughout the selected posts, the role of power was evident across victim/survivors' social ecology. How it was present, or the role it took, was different in each domain: power influenced and was internalized by the victim/survivor at the individual level; power was used by perpetrators to maintain control and as a leverage to perpetrate GBV at the relationship level; power served to maintain social dominance and protect perpetrators at the community level; and the power held by institutions at the societal level, such as the University and/or the police, was evident when those institutions did not take action to prevent further harm. Observing how power was present across victim/survivors' social ecology highlighted the role of power in gender-based violence perpetration. Figure 13 reviews the experience of power across victim/survivor's ecological domain.

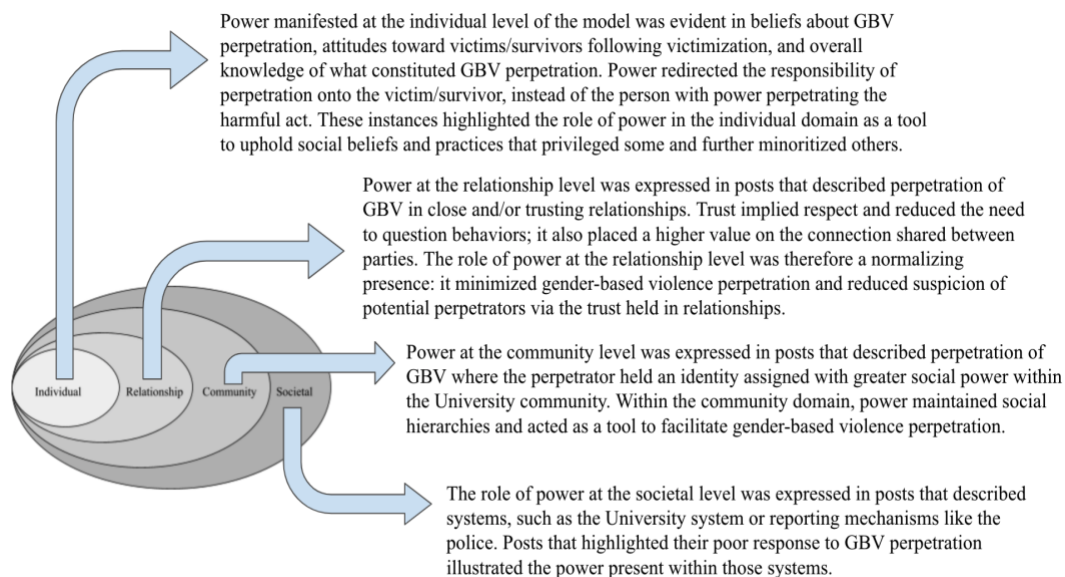


Figure 13: Visual Review of Power Across the Social Domains

Masculinity

Power was evident in socialized masculinity, resulting in the identification of this theme throughout selected posts. Specifically, the masculinity theme highlighted the relationship between masculinity, assumed power, and the power ideals associated with the socialized identity of masculinity. As stated, masculine perpetrators were identified in 122 of the 147 Instagram posts. The code “Masc perpetrator” co-occurred with both “Power-social” and “Power-relational” codes. The masculine perpetrator code was also noted with control-based behavior codes: force or pressure, not taking a no, and assuming consent where either the perpetrator was not able to confirm consent due to the victim/survivor being incapacitated or by switching from one consensual act to an act that was not consented to by the victim/survivor (the effects of these intersection are described in the Effects of Power section, specifically within Entitlement). Figure 14 provides a helpful visual for the observation of these behaviors.

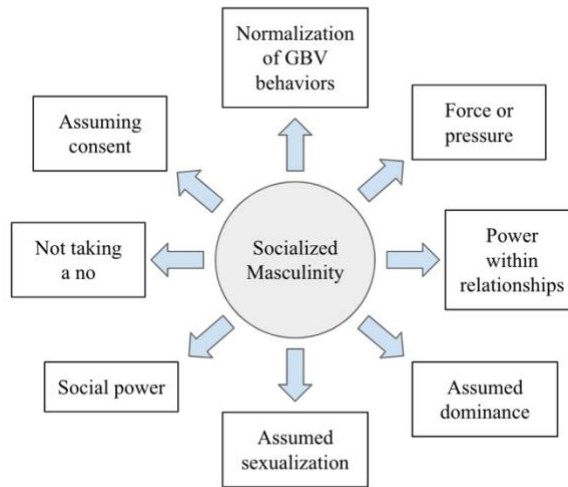


Figure 14: Behaviors Associated with Masculinity

In five Instagram posts, the victim/survivor identified as masculine, and described observations about the power and socialization associated with masculinity; these posts provided insight into the role power plays in the masculine identity. It also highlighted the important distinction that men are not individuals to be problematized. Instead, the ideas, attitudes, and behaviors socialized alongside masculinity are the system to be interrogated.

As discussed in the last section, relationships were often a site of GBV perpetration and a tool used to leverage gender-based violence behaviors. The use of power was especially present in instances where the perpetrator was identified with he/him pronouns. Recall post #12, where the victim/survivor described their relationship where their masculine partner pressured them into unwanted sexual acts. In that narrative, the perpetrator assumed that his sexual needs were a priority in the relationship even though the victim/survivor expressed discomfort. Instead of prioritizing emotional wellbeing, the masculine partner emphasized sex and sexuality. This resulted in a power

dynamic within the relationship where the victim/survivor felt pressured to perform in order to meet the expectations of their partner. This dynamic was expressed across multiple narratives, highlighting the emphasis of sexualization by people socialized within masculinity, as well as the pressure for victims/survivors to align with masculinity - and therefore perform sexual intimacy - in order to maintain their important relationships.

In some instances, the pressure to perform sexually to prove commitment to the relationship was explicit, rather than implied. This is highlighted in post #76:

“I went to [Fraternity] formal with this guy I had been seeing for a while. I was excited because we got to stay in our room, so I thought hooking up would be really fun. However, when we were there, he got so angry at me for flirting with another guy and said we had to have sex to prove I wanted to be there with him. While we were having sex, he hit me across the face so hard I started crying. We had had rough sex before, but he had never actually hurt me like that. I was too scared to do anything because he was already so angry at me.”

In this instance, central elements of the perpetrator’s masculinity were challenged: his status (dominance) was perceived to be in question when the victim/survivor flirted (expressed perceived sexual interest) with another man. To maintain his masculinity and therefore dominance, both socially and within the relationship, the perpetrator used force to assert control.

Masculine perpetrators exercised control outside of romantic relationships, in “hookups” or casual intimate relationships, as well as in friendships. The victim/survivor

in post #36 described their experience with a masculine perpetrator exercising power in their hookup relationship:

“I started hooking up with a sophomore. During our 4th time hooking up (all had been consensual up to that point), I noticed about halfway through that he wasn’t wearing a condom and I clearly remembered him putting one on..I pushed him off of me and asked him where the condom was and he tried to convince me that I told him to take it off and I was so drunk that I didn’t remember. I was drunk but not nearly enough that I would forget that or that I would do that as I never have sex without one...”

Again in this instance, the masculine partner assumed his sexual gratification was more important than the consent of his partner. Masculinity created a narrative that centered him as the important or dominant partner in the hookup relationship. In post #51, the victim/survivor described their experience with a masculine perpetrator: “I was dating someone else I declined but he pushed until I had no choice but to accept. I didn’t know how to say no without making him upset and not want to be friends.” The friendship was important to the victim/survivor; as illustrated in posts #23 and #76, the masculine perpetrator used sexual intimacy as a leverage of the victim/survivor to prove their commitment to the relationship (in this case, friendship). The perpetrator used this power to pressure the victim/survivor into an unwanted sexual act.

Friendship among masculine people also played a role in normalizing power and subsequently perpetration described in victim/survivor experiences. Among friends, masculine people were trusted and not seen as a threat; recall post #44 where the friends of the victim/survivor were also friends with the perpetrator, so they did not register the

imminent harm when he was taking the intoxicated victim/survivor away from the party. In the instance of post #115, other masculine friends did not identify the behavior of the masculine perpetrator as harmful. The victim/survivor describes their experience in the post:

“I interviewed this guy for a [newspaper] story. He started inviting me to house parties. I said no until one night my roommate wanted to go so I said yes. After a couple beers we all went downtown and he got me a martini from the bar. Everything went fuzzy, then black. I have fragmented flashes of memories: someone carrying me into his house from a car. People telling other people I needed water. Waking up at 3 a.m. on a cold tile bathroom floor with my face stuck on a toilet seat... Trying to sleep while he climbed on top of me from behind, moved my panties to the side and penetrated me. No ability to speak. Waking up to him having sex with me again while his friends jumped on the bed like buffoons,” (#115).

Rather than intervene, the friends of the masculine perpetrator celebrated or made a joke of him sexually assaulting the victim/survivor. Power and perpetration were so normalized in masculine communities that they were not seen as violations, but instead as games or play. This is echoed by the victim/survivor in post #153, where they describe an unwanted act of anal penetration, known as “the shocker”:

“My freshman year at Downtown University there was a group of fraternity boys who were keeping count of how many girls they could surprise with “the shocker...” During what I wanted to be a consensual experience I had this done to me without asking. I was terrified and remember quickly rushing out of his dorm

room in [a residence hall]. I found out about the pact the boys had made later when another girl was explaining that it happened to her to [*sic*] with the same guy.”

Masculine perpetration of GBV was socially acceptable within the social unit of the fraternity, which led to the victimization of multiple students; this is discussed further in the Fraternity Affiliation section. Their relationship and social power normalized the perpetration of GBV by masculine people.

The provided examples highlight the normalization of power-based behavior used by masculine people to perpetrate GBV. These include using pressure or force to influence or coerce the victim or survivor, as described in post #12: “every time we hung out, he wanted to have sex. After a few times, he started to pressure me into doing things I wasn’t comfortable with. I tried telling him this but he always guilted me into doing it.”; not accepting when a victim/survivor says no, as described in post #21: “I told him “I’m too drunk for this” but he said “it’s okay” and held me down.”; and assuming consent for all sexual acts, shown in post #33: “what I thought was going to be casual sex turned into him pinning me down, be extremely rough and wouldn’t stop when I said stop”. The perpetrators in these examples, as with others on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account highlight, the attitudes and behaviors present within perpetration done by men. These behaviors convey beliefs of entitlement and normalization of both violence and disregard for consent. Themes of entitlement are discussed in greater depth in The Effect of Power section.

Some men, however, were aware of the socialized expectations of masculine people. They posted accounts to the @BetterDowntownUniversity describing norms of

masculine sexuality, realizations of the effects of power and control, and the effects masculinity had on perpetration of GBV. The masculine survivor in post #86 shared his experience with sexual assault:

“...I ended up getting very drunk and blacked out. I don't remember much except for blips of standing at the bar and then waking up completely naked in this girls bed... I asked her if we had sex the next morning and she said yes, I don't remember it happening at all. I tried to talk to my friends about it and they laughed it off and talked about how lucky I was to hook up with her. I look back on that night and know I was raped but am too ashamed to say anything because I'm a guy and the stigma that comes with.”

This victim/survivor, instead of having his feelings of violation and betrayal validated, is celebrated for having sex - regardless of whether or not he consented. The sexualization of men not only led to attitudes and behaviors that normalized GBV, but also made it hard for men to seek support when they themselves have been victimized. This is echoed by the victim/survivor in post #50, when a masculine victim/survivor struggled to identify his experience as sexual assault:

“One night when I was out at a bar, a girl that I kind of knew came up to me and tried to make out with me. I wasn't interested and told her so but she was pretty drunk and she continued to try and grind on me and feel up my crotch, my ass and kept trying to kiss me...It eventually took three people to pull her off of me. I used to share that story with my friends and it would get some laughs and I would just laugh along too. This year

though, I went and saw a therapist and shared my story and my therapist was the first to tell me and call the incident that happened a sexual assault. Nevertheless, given the gender roles of our society, I struggle seeing myself as a victim, even though that incident impacts my life everyday.”

Even when they were able to name an unwanted experience, masculine survivors struggled with experiencing unfamiliar power-based control. The victim/survivor in post #46 described his realization:

“I went to a party thrown by my own fraternity last spring; I was just stopping by to say hi to friends I had been too busy to see for the past couple months. I had a drink; I woke up in a hospital and my blood tested positive for rohypnol/benzodiazepine. Being a white male, I never thought something like this could happen to me. I don’t know if it was as meant for me: I do know that I will never forget the shame and anxiety that comes from waking up and not knowing what I had done and or what happened to me. Someone exerted control over my body and it will take years to be comfortable being myself again.”

Experiences like his were described frequently among the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram posts by other victims/survivors that did not disclose their gender identity; GBV perpetration is most commonly targeted at people with minoritized gender identities. The victim/survivor in #46 clearly articulated the interconnection of his Whiteness and masculinity that typically protect White men. This highlighted the power typically held within these identities and the way that this power manifested both in society and on the University campus.

In another instance, it took a man witnessing harassment to realize the depth to which masculinity held power on campus. He describes his experience in post #49:

“I was at a friend’s place in [a residence hall] the other night. Eventually, around midnight, I decided to leave and go back to... where I live. As I was about to leave, she said that one of her friends who was watching a movie or something in the next room, needs to go to [their residence hall] and asked me if I could walk her. I said yes... As we were passing [a restaurant] a car whizzed past us and the men in the car looked at my companion and yelled “Show me that pussy, girl!” And then they saw me so they apologized...to me. I was startled and even though she asked me not to worry and told me this was an insignificant incident that happens all the time, I still cannot stop thinking about it. As a cis-man I have never been catcalled neither had I heard someone being catcalled until that incident. It terrifies me, as a man, to think about the kind of unquestioning sexual power and privilege that we have enabled in men as a society. It terrifies me to think that acts like this are so normalized that the girl who was with me did not even think it was out of ordinary. This scares and disheartens me even to this day.”

Similar to the victim/survivor in post #46, it took an incident of GBV perpetration for the masculine person to realize the power and privilege held within his identities. The secondary victim/survivor in post #49 dug deeper into their socially accepted dominance, explicitly naming the power, privilege, and sexualization associated with masculinity that

facilitated GBV perpetration. Overall, the role of power in masculinity created attitudes that supported and facilitated power-based behaviors. This post (#49) highlighted many themes associated with masculinity: assumed dominance, behaviors that demonstrated dominance, and the assumption of sex or sexualization associated with masculinity.

Fraternity Affiliation

Fraternity affiliation was described in posts where power was exercised alongside masculinity and across the social ecology; affiliation contributed to environments where masculine dominance behaviors were normalized. However, a fraternity is not a singular entity responsible for perpetration. Instead, the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that were normalized within the organization illustrated the role of power within the fraternity and ultimately affected the members who could be potential perpetrators. Posts where the perpetrator is identified as being associated with a fraternity were aligned in this theme.

Fraternity affiliation created tight-knit bonds amongst members. Recall post #143, where the victim/survivor described how their boyfriend prioritized their fraternity relationships over their romantic relationship: “I was with him at the frat house and his best friend called me a whore in front of his other frat friends. My then boyfriend did not do anything to defend me and stayed silent as I broke down in tears. He proceeded to defend his friend throughout our whole relationship and made me feel guilty and ashamed.” Challenging his fraternity members would have meant going against the power of the fraternity. Instead of challenging power by addressing his fraternity brother, the victim’s/survivor's boyfriend remained complicit and even exercised power and control via victim blaming.

Even when organization members were confronted with the harmful acts of perpetration committed by a fellow fraternity member, they protected their fraternity brother and therefore maintained the power of their organization. The victim/survivor describes this in post #65:

“...While he assaulted me 3 of the frat brothers were trying to get into his room to stop him because they knew how drunk I was and apparently after he raped me he slept on the couch outside his room all night while his friends were taking care of me giving me water and occasionally seeing if I was alive... I woke up that morning... I got out of the bed and walked outside where the guy who assaulted me and his three friends were all sitting there wide awake and talking. The guy who assaulted me refused to make eye contact with me as the others asked how I was doing. I left the house alone and after a year I know that this guy is a serious predator, his friends are fucks for not reporting him even though they knew he raped...”

The role of power in this experience was twofold: the perpetrator assumed consent and felt entitled to sex, even though the victim/survivor was unable to consent; and the other fraternity members, even though they were aware of the harm being perpetrated, maintained their fraternal relationships and protected their brother by not reporting.

Protecting a fellow member, and therefore the fraternity, resulted in the avoidance of confronting the power that undergirded gender-based violence perpetration. In post #65, the fraternity members prioritized their brother and the organization by not reporting an act of perpetration. In post #69, members sought to maintain the power of the fraternity following an act of perpetration. The perpetrator and his friends harassed the

victim/survivor leading them to “...avoid many parts of campus for fear of seeing him,” because “his fraternity brothers and friends who are in sororities [were] very hostile...” (post #69). The perpetrator and his friends exercised victim blaming and harassment behaviors, exerting power and control over the victim/survivor.

The tight-knit bonds within a fraternity also resulted in strong social networks. Perpetrators benefitted explicitly and implicitly from this social standing by having increased social capital: members of these groups were viewed as more popular and therefore having more social power, so victims/survivors felt pressured into sexual acts. The social power held by members of fraternity also made victims/survivors reluctant to report after experiencing GBV perpetration to avoid social repercussions. The victim/survivor in post #105 spoke to this: “My neighbor sexually assaulted me while I was passed out after a night of drinking in my own room. He walked into my room without prior invitation and took advantage of my unconsciousness. I woke up to him having sex with me. I texted him about it the day after and he pretended like he didn't know I was literally asleep. He's in a frat and I was too scared to say anything.”

Much as the fraternity member in post #143 did not feel they could challenge their brother and therefore the fraternity, victims/survivors felt the same. If a victim/survivor did not abide by the power associated with the perpetrator's fraternity membership and did speak out, they were harassed into compliance; recall post #69, or see post #51: “...Both boys have me banned from [Fraternity], berate me whenever I go out, and continue to attack me and my friends with rumors, lies, and hate.” Membership in a fraternity resulted in accessed social power, which led to expressions of control and gender-based violence perpetration. Figure 15 highlights the way that attitudes and

behaviors were embedded within fraternity affiliation, influenced the behaviors of members, and were simultaneously practiced and upheld those members. Power, therefore, was both a tool utilized by fraternity members to exert power and control, and a tool to maintain their dominance; this was exercised across identities and victim's/survivor's social ecology.

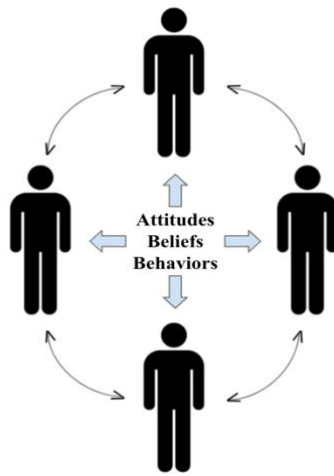


Figure 15: Power Within and Upheld by Fraternity Membership

Academic year

First year students were at an increased risk of experiencing GBV perpetration as a result of the power hierarchy that existed on the University campus. Power was evident when examining experiences of gender-based violence perpetration among first year or freshman students shared on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account. This theme describes how power was leveraged based on the victim's/survivor's first year at Downtown University. Posts in this theme were identified using the "Freshman" code, and intersected with instances of power across the student's social ecology as well as in posts where the perpetrator was identified with he/him pronouns.

Recall in post #110, where the victim/survivor described feelings of self-blame and had internalized social beliefs of victim blaming. This resulted from an experience their freshman year:

“The first night I was in Denver as a freshman, the Saturday before O week, some athletes that I had met when I first toured the school invited me to a party and I was so excited and went. We drank and we had a lot of fun... I was really drunk... I agreed and he let me sleep in a spare room in the house. In the middle of the night I woke up to him kissing me, on top of me, with his hands in my underwear, he had already taken off my shirt and shorts...”

The victim/survivor describes an experience that intersects with social power, relational power, masculinity, and the added power dynamic of them being a first-year student. Expression of power and control was not a siloed experience; instead, power was used by the perpetrator in a multi-layer way to exert control over the victim/survivor.

This post is similar to a number of others shared. For example, in post #149, a first-year student describes an experience of sexual assault their first year:

“My freshman year at Downtown University I was invited to a fraternity date party by the risk manager of the house. I had a little too much to drink and felt sick at the event, so, he offered to bring me back to the fraternity house. I went back with him and immediately was throwing up in one of the communal bathrooms. That is the last thing I remember before waking up the morning after with my clothes off dressed only in one of his hockey jerseys. I didn't remember what had happened so I hoped that he had not

had sex with me. Later that day when I was back home I went pee and a part of a broken condom came out of me. Not only had he had sex with me while I was unconscious, but he failed to mention that the condom had broke.”

Again, the victim/survivor experienced GBV perpetration by a masculine person who held social power that had assumed consent while the victim/survivor was passed out.

The themes in this section highlighted how power was present within the victim/survivor experiences shared on the @BetterDowntownUniveristy Instagram account. Power had a role in perpetration and experience of harm across the social ecology of victims/survivors; power was manifested in the masculine identity of perpetrators; power served to both maintain the social dominance of and facilitate GBV perpetration within fraternities; and power associated with academic year was leveraged to perpetrate gender-based violence. The posts used to illustrate the themes highlighted the interconnected nature of the themes identified within the role of power in GBV perpetration.

What is the Effect of Power?

The third research sub-question, “What is the effect of power?” guided the formation of themes to uncover the effects of power in the experiences described, so as to better uncover the “investment in and benefit from systems of domination” (Linder, 2018, p.14). The context considered in question one informed the role of power in GBV perpetration, which then scaffolded the understanding of the effects of systems of oppression, like GBV. These were considered alongside cultural, historical, and gender issues (ACHA, 2018) that affect students. The themes that emerged became apparent

when units of meaning were clustered to identify the effects of power, yielding three themes: entitlement, expectation of power and control, and the maintenance of power and control. These themes were distinct, and also contained elements of identity and behavioral themes discussed previously. The following subsections define each theme, provide examples, and highlight the effects of power in GBV perpetration at Downtown University.

Entitlement

As discussed in the previous section, power was expressed in GBV perpetration through relationships, social dynamics, and within specific identities including masculinity. The effect of power in these domains was a theme of entitlement, or the belief expressed through behaviors that the perpetrator deserved, or was entitled to, sexual acts regardless of the wants or boundaries of the victim/survivor. Entitlement was specifically expressed in acts where the perpetrator assumed consent, used pressure or force, or did not respect the victim/survivor saying no; these behaviors were identified with their corresponding codes, often with co-occurrences. Attitudes of entitlement aligned with social dominance ideals of masculinity and the assumed entitlement to power and control in relationships and social settings. The five behavioral codes at the top of the array in Figure 16 highlight the behaviors that indicated entitlement; the three codes at the bottom of the array highlight the role of power within the expression of entitlement.

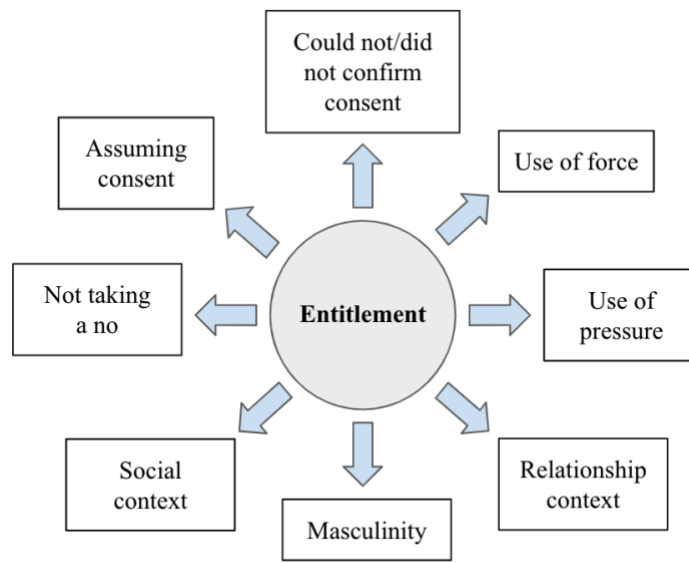


Figure 16: Entitlement as an Effect of Power

Socialized power resulted in perpetrators assuming when a victim/survivor consented to sexual acts. In many instances, this was operationalized through the perpetrator shifting from a consented-to behavior to another behavior or act that was not consented to by the victim/survivor; this was identified using the “AC-shift” code. For example, in post #5: “I was pretty drunk. I distinctly remember saying yes to him having sex with me and then put his dick in my ass.... It took me a really long time to realize that this wasn’t consensual...” This post echoes the experience of the victim/survivor from post #36, described before: “During our 4th time hooking up (all had been consensual up to that point), I noticed about halfway through that he wasn’t wearing a condom and I clearly remembered him putting one on... he tried to convince me that I told him to take it off and I was so drunk that I didn’t remember.” In these instances, the perpetrator prioritized their own experience and felt entitled to sexual gratification that centered their desires. This was a result of the socialized power associated with masculine identities,

that reinforced the dominance of their own experience at the expense of the victim/survivor.

In some cases, the perpetrator assumed consent and shifted behaviors because of beliefs that they used to normalize their behavior. The victim in post #8 described this experience:

“My freshman year at Downtown University I went to a guy’s house to hang out as friends... My back was hurting so he offered to rub my shoulders. Next thing I knew he was kissing and touching me and on top of me and I just laid there frozen... The next day when I texted him that I did not like what happened his response was “I was trying to help I know girls get horny when they’re on their period.”

The victim/survivor did not ask for the perpetrator to rub their shoulders or to initiate sexual activity. Instead, the perpetrator assumed what the victim/survivor wanted; the perpetrator centered their own beliefs to support their entitlement to sex. The effect of power in this instance was the perpetrator taking control over the experience, feeling entitled to pursue sex.

Perpetrators also assumed consent when the victim/survivor was incapacitated, or unable to respond or provide consent. This was identified using the “AC-unable to consent” code. For example, in post #43: “I fell asleep and after a while he got on top of me again, and I woke up to him inside me without a condom... Over the past couple years, other girls told me that he pressured them into sex while they were drunk.” The victim/survivor, and the others they mention, were incapacitated due to alcohol intoxication and were not able to consent. In many cases like post #43, alcohol or another

substance was used to facilitate GBV perpetration such as sexual assault. The effect again is that the perpetrator exercised entitlement to the sexual act, regardless of the victim/survivor's ability to consent.

In some instances, the perpetrator took advantage of the victim/survivor when they were already intoxicated. In other cases, the perpetrator used drugs or alcohol to lower the resistance of the victim/survivor, as in post #37: "He kept putting more alcohol into my drink until I was near blackout. Which is when he took me to my room "to put me to bed" and proceeded to hold me down and rape me." Rather than care for the victim/survivor who was dangerously intoxicated, the perpetrator felt entitled to sex, and used alcohol as tool to facilitate an assault. It is not the fault of the victim/survivor for being assaulted while they were intoxicated. Instead, socialized power resulted in attitudes of entitlement held by perpetrators, which resulted in them assuming consent and perpetrating harm against the victim/survivor. Power, and the resulting entitlement, was the root cause of perpetration, not the victim/survivor's intoxication.

If the perpetrator was not getting the sex or intimacy they felt entitled to, many used force or pressure to get the victim/survivor to do what they wanted. These behaviors were noted using the "force" and "pressure" codes. Force and pressure were displayed explicitly, through the use of bodily force as seen post #118: "He forces me to do oral holding my head down until he finishes." And in post #7: "He asked me to give him a blowjob, I was ok with it so I did, and then he forced my mouth all the way down, it hurt so I said I don't want to have sex more. He said, "I'm sure you do" and proceeded to force my mouth back on him." In both of these instances, the masculine perpetrator felt entitled to a specific sexual act and forced the victim/survivor to perform. Specifically in

post #7, the perpetrator also uses their assumptions to justify their entitlement and therefore use of pressure and force. Codes that align under the “Entitlement” theme often co-occurred like this and are highlighted throughout this section.

In other instances, force and pressure were imposed through coercion or manipulation. This is highlighted in post #57: “...he told me to sit on the bed and he went to turn off the lights. Almost immediately he started making out with me. Not even two minutes in, he asked me “are you going to get a condom or not?” Begrudgingly, I got one out, feeling as if I had no other choice. It was phrased as if the sex was inevitable, but the condom was my choice.” The victim/survivor did not feel like they had the option to say no, and were pressured into complying. In some instances, this led the victim/survivor to say yes when they did not mean it, as in post #45: “...I was pressured and said yes to something I didn’t really want.” In both of these instances, the victim/survivor did not actually consent, based on the definition of consent defined by Downtown University. Instead, the perpetrator felt entitled to sex and used pressure to force the victim/survivor into sexual acts.

Even if the victim/survivor said no, oftentimes the perpetrator would disregard their statement and move forward with sex. This was identified with the “not taking a no” code. In these instances, the victim/survivor would make an excuse, move the perpetrator’s hands or body, and in some instances explicitly say no to indicate their non-consent in the moment. Nonetheless, the perpetrator felt entitled to sex and would move forward, not recognizing or not respecting what the victim/survivor said. This was often combined with the use of pressure or force, as shown in post #27:

“...he leaned in to kiss me. I was fine with kissing him but then he got on top of me and asked if we could have sex...I said no. He continued to kiss my neck and grind up on me and asked again in a few minutes if we could have sex. I said I didn't want to and this cycle continued for a little bit until I felt pressured to say yes since he didn't stop asking or grinding on me.”

The effect of power in these instances was that the perpetrator felt entitled to disregard the actions or wishes of the victim/survivor.

If the sexual interaction did not meet the standard that the perpetrator felt entitled to, they would express disdain or even retaliate against the victim/survivor. For example, in post #40 the victim/survivor described their experience: “He would call me a bitch and other names because I refused to do anything with him.” Another victim/survivor shares their experience with retaliation in post #157:

“He was my boyfriend at the time, and in the beginning, I was allowed to use our Safe word, but then he started to get aggressive and will yell at me and kick me out if I used it. Eventually, I was scared and just wanted him to love me, so I just lay there and cried while he raped me. Afterwards, he ignored me for a couple days, and then broke up with me because I had made him feel "gross" and that it was my fault that happened.”

In these instances, power had led the masculine perpetrators to believe that they were entitled to sex or a specific kind of sex and blamed the victim/survivor when they did not get what they wanted. In post #28, the victim/survivor described the perpetrator articulating this belief:

“we started kissing and I was enjoying that. He tried to take off my shirt and I told him no. As soon as I said no it seemed like something snapped and he got SO angry. He got on top of me and was kissing me really aggressively while grabbing my boobs. The next day I confronted him about it, because I was just so confused about why that happened. He told me that people don’t tell him no and he knew I wanted a guy who could take charge.”

The behaviors within the theme of entitlement overlapped to highlight the effect of power in GBV perpetration. Having the codes overlap was not uncommon; post #43 illustrated the different ways that entitlement, an effect of power, was expressed:

“I ran into a friend at [a bar] that I usually felt safe with and had known for a while. At the bar he suggested we go back to my dorm to hang out. Once we were there we started kissing and I pulled away and said I didn’t want to have sex. He said it was fine and we kept making out, but he would put his hand up my shirt and down my pants and I repeatedly said I didn’t want to have sex. Eventually he had his pants off and pressured me to keep going. He asked why I would bring him back to my room in the first place if it wasn’t for sex.”

Post #43 highlighted the different ways that entitlement, and therefore power, show up to affect GBV perpetration. The victim/survivor was with a masculine person they trusted, which highlighted the role of relational power and the power associated with masculinity; the victim/survivor clearly stated a no, which was disregarded; the victim/survivor was pressured to continue; and finally, the perpetrator articulated their

internalized assumptions of entitlement to sex. The effect of power, in this instance and described throughout this section, was perpetrators' entitlement to their own wants or expectations, often manifested in sex.

Expectation of Power and Control

Within the themes exploring the role of power and the resulting effects of power, the expectation of power and control - and therefore GBV perpetration - became apparent. Specifically, power and perpetration were seen as normal or to-be-expected events in the college experience. Victim blaming, not reporting, and addressing other victim/survivors within calls to action highlighted the adoption of rape-supportive attitudes, where GBV was considered an expected part of being a University student. The victim/survivor being unaware that their experience was an act of GBV, as well as the perpetrator not realizing their actions constituted GBV perpetration, were further examples of the acceptance and normalization of beliefs around power and perpetration.

Some students at Downtown University had difficulty identifying unwanted sexual experiences as GBV perpetration. When some victim/survivors disclosed an experience of GBV perpetration, their loved ones minimized what had happened, as in post #84: "I would try to bring it up with my friends, but they would brush it off as just another hookup...." This victim/survivor is not explicitly blamed for what happened to them; instead, they are encouraged to view it as any other hook-up or wanted experience. The friends of the victim/survivor in post #118 respond similarly: "My friend and I leave soon after... and she is hyping me up and asking for details." By disregarding the affective dimension of the unwanted sexual experience, the power exerted upon the victim/survivor was minimized; unwanted sexual contact was normalized.

In other instances, victims/survivors were held responsible for the perpetration of GBV against them through victim blaming. Victim blaming placed the fault of GBV perpetration, and therefore the prevention of harm, on the victim/survivor. Rather than interrogating the behavior of the perpetrator who exercised power and control, the victim/survivor was blamed for what happened to them. Attitudes that reflect this practice were noted with the “victim blame” code. Victim blaming was illustrated in post #109: “I was blamed by family members and friends who said it was my fault that it happened, it was my fault because I was drunk.” The victim/survivor in post #37, mentioned before, echoed this experience: “I told my parents hoping that they could help me figure out how to do something about it. When instead they told me it’s my fault for acting that way, it was bound to happen to me since I’m gay, and that it’s my fault it happened to me for not being careful enough.” The implication was that if the victims/survivors were not drunk, and had instead behaved differently, they would have prevented their assault. In the instance of the victim/survivor in post #37, this was compounded by their parents’ beliefs about their sexuality. However, it was not the victim/survivor’s sexuality that was to blame; as the role of power themes and behavioral themes highlighted previously, perpetration is rooted in attitudes of identity dominance, entitlement, and power across a student’s social ecology. Normalizing GBV perpetration through victim blaming was an effect of power and resulted in dominance being normalized.

Victim blaming, and therefore shifting the responsibility of the assault from the perpetrator to the victim/survivor, resulted in some victims/survivors not reporting or seeking help; this was noted with the “DNR” code. In post #89, the victim/survivor internalized victim blaming attitudes: “I felt like it was my fault for going over there in

the first place so I justified it to myself and didn't report it." They believed that their experience of GBV perpetration was their fault and therefore did not seek help. Recall the victim/survivor from post #110: "I never reported this incident because I knew it wasn't worth it. I knew nobody would really care about it. I knew it would be brushed off like no big deal." The victim/survivor believed that their report would not be taken seriously because of the normalization of GBV perpetration. Victim blaming contributed to the normalization of the expression of power and control through GBV perpetration, and even shifted responsibility from the person who exercised power and control (the perpetrator) to the person that was targeted (the victim/survivor).

The maintenance of power through victim blaming and normalizing perpetration resulted in the victim/survivor not being sure if their experience even counted as GBV perpetration. This was noted using the "unaware" code. The victim/survivor in post #90 articulated this confusion: "I don't know if I was raped or if that is rape but now I can't enjoy sex." The victim/survivor in post #117 justified their experience to themselves: "I thought it was a bad one night stand." Neither victim/survivor was able to identify their experience as GBV perpetration. In some cases, being unaware if their experience constituted GBV perpetration prevented the victim/survivor from reporting or seeking help, as in post #111: "I didn't report it because I honestly don't know if what happened to me constitutes sexual assault... I didn't tell him to stop and he didn't aggressively force me into anything, but I did not want any of that to happen." They described an unwanted experience but remained not sure if it met the threshold of GBV perpetration. Expressions of power and control were so normalized that the victim/survivor was unsure.

The effects of normalization were so pervasive that some perpetrators also had no idea that their behavior constituted sexual assault or GBV perpetration; this was noted with code “no idea”. In each instance of the code, there was a masculine perpetrator identified. Their socialized masculinity and attitudes of entitlement prevented them from identifying their behaviors as harmful. Instead, they thought what they were doing was acceptable or even wanted by the victim/survivor. For example, in post #34, the perpetrator claimed to have no idea that the victim/survivor was blacked out, or incapacitated due to alcohol intoxication; asking for consent and checking in with the victim/survivor could have clarified their level of intoxication. The victim/survivor in post #105 shared a similar experience: “I texted him about it the day after and he pretended like he didn't know I was literally asleep.” In these instances, the masculine perpetrators felt entitled to sex, regardless of the victim/survivor’s capacity to consent. Power and masculine dominance were seen as normal, and the ability to have power over an incapacitated person was normalized.

Because power, control, and dominance were normalized within the University experience, even when victims/survivors called for action, they addressed other potential survivors or bystanders instead of potential perpetrators; this was noted using the “CTA-response” code. For example, in post #88, the victim/survivor echoed harm reduction calls to action: “Always ask your friends if they're ok to go home with someone and make sure you always check in with them.” Rather than confront perpetrator behavior and attitudes, this post instead addressed other students and victims/survivors to prevent harm. In other posts, victims/survivors called for more survivor support, as seen in post #66: “Downtown university needs to favor the victim. Even if it’s a gray area. A gray

consequence is better than no consequence.” While important, response to GBV perpetration will not prevent further harm from occurring. These posts highlighted internalized beliefs about who ultimately was responsible for the prevention of gender-based violence, and how perpetration should be addressed. The effect was that power was left un-interrogated, allowed to continue to function within the University environment through GBV perpetration.

Maintenance of Power and Control

The result of entitlement and the normalization of gender-based violence perpetration was the maintenance of power in identities, actions, and across a victim/survivor’s social ecology. This theme highlighted that power was maintained through both implicit beliefs and explicit actions, which were evident in victim blaming, some instances of harassment following a victim/survivor making a report, and when the call to action focused on response instead of confronting power. These units of meaning clustered together to highlight the maintenance of power and control.

In addition to normalizing power and control, and therefore gender-based violence perpetration, victim blaming also maintained the power of perpetrators. Instead of confronting their behavior and challenging their socialized power, victim blaming took the responsibility of harm off of the perpetrator and placed it on the victim/survivor. Friends or loved ones of the victim/survivor articulated victim blaming beliefs; these were noted with the “victim blame” code. In post #175, the victim/survivor described the attitudes of their friends: “my friends... convinced me that it was my fault. [They] didn't believe me. [They] said I was with him that night because I wanted to be.” The fault was placed on the victim/survivor, to the point where they internalized the belief that they

were complicit in GBV perpetration. By internalizing victim blaming beliefs, victims/survivors experienced the effect of power within the individual domain; recall in posts #89 and #110 that the victims/survivors did not seek out support following their experiences of GBV perpetration because they believed it was their fault and/or they would not be believed. The power or dominance of the perpetrator was maintained.

In order to maintain dominance, some perpetrators would harass the victim/survivor following GBV perpetration; these were noted with the “HA” code. The victim/survivor in post #15 described their experience following an assault: “The next day he threatened me and said I wasn’t allowed to tell anyone. Him and his new girlfriend still harass me on campus. They’ve threatened my friends and have dumped drinks on me in bars.” To some degree, the perpetrator in this experience was aware of the harm their actions caused; instead of taking responsibility, though, they used harassment to maintain their power and dominance. Recall the victim/survivor in post #51, who described a similar experience: “Now both boys have me banned from [Fraternity], berate me whenever I go out, and continue to attack me and my friends with rumors, lies, and hate.” In both instances expressions of power, through GBV perpetration, begot more power and control. Instead of disrupting the effects of power, in both instances both perpetrators maintained their dominance.

Some posts on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram discussed protecting victims/survivors, instead of confronting perpetrators or potential perpetrators; these posts were noted with the “CTA-response” code. For example, in #28: “I think it goes to show how much more we need to improve as a society to protect survivors...” By focusing on harm reduction, the focus remained on the victim/survivor, rather than

naming what was at the root of causing harm: GBV perpetration. Even in post #88, when the victim/survivor called for enhanced bystander intervention (“Always ask your friends if they're ok to go home with someone and make sure you always check in with them.”), they were not addressing the root of GBV perpetration. As discussed in the Literature Review, secondary prevention is a helpful tool to reduce the escalation of harm in situations involving gender-based violence. However tools like bystander intervention do not address the roots of power and control that facilitate GBV perpetration. Without confronting the role of power and its occurring effects, power was ultimately maintained.

Power resulted in attitudes of entitlement, the expectation of power and control as part of the University experience, and the maintenance of power and control within the University community. These effects of power described both an investment in and benefit from systems of domination (Linder, 2018). The themes that illustrated the effect of power were distinct and yet also overlapped with previous themes identified, further highlighting the role of power in perpetration. These themes inform the fourth and final research question, wherein power is confronted; this is explored in the next section.

Actions Called for by the Survivor

The final research sub-question, “What, if any, actions are called for by the victim/survivor in the Instagram post?” was modeled after tenets of trauma-informed care, wherein peer support, collaboration, and empowerment, voice and choice (ACHA, 2016) were centered. A power-conscious approach required that I work with impacted communities to enact change (Linder, 2018); otherwise, I ran the risk of exercising gatekeeping and/or paternalism, which are expressions of power. Using these tenets to inform this research question, and to therefore identify themes that would inform future

prevention efforts, were in alignment with my research frameworks. The themes that emerged involved addressing power and reclaiming power. The following subsections define each theme, provide examples, and highlight the effects of power in GBV perpetration at Downtown University.

Addressing Power

Perpetrators exercised power and control across the social ecology and through certain identities, resulting in the expression of power and control and the associated effects of those behaviors of domination. Some victims/survivors addressed these behaviors of perpetration in their posts to the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account. Specifically, the victim/survivor called for change by addressing potential perpetrators, gender-based violence behaviors, or the University. These units were noted with the “CTA”, or “call to action”, sub themes of “-perp”, “-names behavior”, and “-university”.

The “CTA-response” posts discussed previously are contrasted with victim/survivor calls to action that confronted perpetrators and/or named behaviors, where they sought to dispel myths and interrupt victim blaming. These posts addressed the power rooted in GBV perpetration. Victims/survivors that made global statements toward potential perpetrators and/or power in their post were assigned the “CTA-perp” code. In post #11, the victim/survivor addressed the practice of not holding perpetrators responsible for their actions: “We need to... stop making excuses for people who don't understand what "no" means. This needs to end.” In post #163, the victim/survivor addressed potential perpetrators: “No matter who you are, please don't hit the person that you're in a relationship with.” In both instances, the victim/survivor addressed the root

cause of GBV perpetration - power expressed by the perpetrator. While confronting power did not appear to be a common practice, when it occurred, the victim/survivor was clear to indicate that other victims/survivors were not responsible for their experience. Instead, they highlighted the responsibility of the perpetrator, directly addressing power.

In other instances, the victim/survivor confronted power and control more specifically, naming perpetrator behavior they experienced. The victim/survivor in post #99 modeled this: "It doesn't matter how long you've known a person. A "no" still means no." The victim/survivor addressed perpetrators who were exercising power and control across the relationship domain, as occurred in their own experience. In post #36, the victim/survivor addressed what is perceived to be a common behavior: "I wanted to share because I know this has happened to many girls and so many people don't understand that taking off a condom without permission from both parties is assault. I consented to SAFE sex." Through speaking their truth, they addressed perceived norms to interrupt GBV perpetration.

When the victim/survivor named the behaviors they experienced, they by extension addressed the normalization of power and control. For example, in post #10, the victim/behavior confronts assumptions of consent: "Just because I consented to one thing doesn't mean I consented to the other." A perpetrator is not noted, however the perpetration behavior is called into focus. This also occurred in post #71: "It is not ok for someone to persistently try to contact/find you when you reject them." In both instances, the victim/survivor addressed power by disrupting behaviors that were normalized or were considered to be expected within the University experience. They moved beyond the individual to the relational and even community level domains.

Identifying the broader reach of power occurred in posts that described institutional failures to confront perpetrators and/or perpetrator behavior, based on survivor narratives. In these posts, victims/survivors observed the power within the community or institutional domain. For instance, they addressed power when they expressed disappointment in the University for not doing more to prevent further harm, as is shared in post #79: “I was just disappointed [*sic*] at the lack of action by the school for the safety of other students.” Victims/survivors also addressed power when they perceived University complacency in the maintenance of power and domination. In post #101, the victim/survivor challenged the privilege held by perpetrators with social power: “Downtown University needs to know that know that money doesn't equal power or an exception to no meaning no.” The victim/survivor highlighted the relationship between social power and institutional reinforcement of dominance; by addressing the University, the victim/survivor named the ultimate responsibility of the school to address power.

Reclaiming power

Gender-based violence, as an expression of power and control, takes away the agency of the impacted victim/survivor. As part of their healing, victims/survivors who posted on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page identified elements of reclaiming their power. Recall that many survivors expressed feelings of isolation and internalized victim blaming beliefs. By addressing power via sharing their story, victims/survivors began to challenge the normalization of perpetration, therefore reclaiming some of the power they lost when they experienced GBV perpetration. These posts were noted with the “VS impact” code, though not all instances of this code included elements of reclaiming power.

Victims/survivors described their processes for healing following their experiences with GBV perpetration. Some went to therapy, as in post #78: “If anyone asked, or wanted to listen, I would have opened up and maybe things would have been different to have prevented either [suicide] attempt. I eventually opened up to a therapist and resource outside of Downtown University that really helped. I felt heard and worked through my shame. Downtown University accepted me back the next fall. There is hope”. Talking about their experience, feeling validated, and working through their internalized beliefs led to feelings of hope. This was echoed in post #84: “I have worked tirelessly to feel control of my body again - there is hope.” Regaining control led to feelings of empowerment.

For some victims/survivors, sharing their experiences on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account was an act of regaining control. #174 “...Here is to the boy who sexually assaulted/raped me... You took so much power, confidence and trust away for me. So right now I will take it all back because I am worth so much more than what you took me for.” By addressing their perpetrator and bringing their experience out of the individual, internalized domain, the victim/survivor was able to begin their healing process and reclaim their power.

For others, simply reading the narratives of other victims/survivors validated their own experience, as in post #133:

“I have my own stories, but this won't be it. I needed to express my gratitude for this account and all of the brave and strong people who have submitted their stories. The past several weeks have been tough because while reading the stories I realized that I had been sexually assaulted...

For a long time I knew deep down that what happened to me with sexual assault, but I never wanted to talk about it because I was scared that I would be invalidated, or that would suddenly become real... After seeing so many stories that were so similar to mine I felt like I was finally heard, like I wasn't alone. Thank you so much to the admin of this page, to the people who have shared their stories, and to the people who believe them.”

The victim/survivor realized that their experience was an act of GBV perpetration, confronted internalized expectations of victim blaming and/or personal responsibility, and interrupted the maintenance of power and control associated with GBV perpetration. The @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account provided a platform for victims/survivors to address power, identify behaviors, and begin their own processes of healing - thus shifting the norms that preferenced and protected those with power (perpetrators) to instead re-center and empower victims/survivors.

Summary of Findings

The victim/survivor narratives shared on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram page provided a rich source of data through which to better understand the nature of gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University. Each of the research sub-questions illuminated the presence of power within gender-based violence perpetration, in alignment with the power-conscious framework. Specific behaviors were described, which created the foundation and context for understanding the role of power in GBV behaviors. The posts uncovered that power was manifested across the social ecology of the victim/survivor and that certain social identities were afforded more power, which normalized perpetration as an extension of that power. The effects of

power were attitudes and actions that normalized power and control via gender-based violence, therefore maintaining power within social practice. The Instagram account also served a purpose for victims/survivors beyond shedding light on an under-explored topic: the account gave victims/survivors a platform to address power and begin to reclaim power for themselves.

Chapter 5: Discussion and Implications

The purpose of this doctoral research project was to uncover the relationship between power and gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University. Through the research process, I uncovered elements of how power was present, or its role in perpetration; the effects of power; as well as steps forward, as identified by victims/survivors who posted on the @BetterDowntownUniversity Instagram account. This chapter provides further reflections upon this research project, implications for future practice, as well as boundaries of this research model. Critical reflexivity and concluding thoughts will close this doctoral research project.

Essence of the Research Project

Descriptions from victims'/survivors' first-hand narratives of gender-based violence perpetration provided a composite of the nature of gender-based violence, illuminating the experience or phenomenon of GBV perpetration at Downtown University. The research questions uncovered a layering of power, where the specific behaviors of GBV perpetration (sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and domestic violence) were both a result of power as well as a tool to maintain power. Specifically, GBV perpetration at Downtown University was an expression of power and control present across the domains of students' ecology, as part of their socialized identities, and manifested within their actions and interactions. Those with power on campus expressed

dominance as both an internalized norm or assumption associated with that dominant identity, and to maintain their social power or dominance.

The Social Ecological Model (SCHA, 2016) highlighted the domains that influence a student's experience and learning while in college. Power was present across each of the domains, either as experienced by or expressed by students. When power was expressed across the social ecological domains, it was done in concert with power associated with social identities. Students with identities socialized into power - masculinity, older academic year, membership in a fraternity - used that power to exercise dominance across and within the social ecology of victims/survivors. Power was normalized or assumed for these identities, and therefore was leveraged to exercise control and domination in relationships, within social settings. Institutionally, either no action was taken to confront the normalization of power associated with these identities, or institutional practice maintained the power associated with those identities. As a result, victims/survivors continued to experience expressions of power through gender-based violence behaviors.

Where power was expressed, it was both obvious and covert; power was clear in instances of domination, force, or pressure, and covert in the maintenance of power through victim blaming, self-blame, and the lack of awareness of gender-based violence behaviors. Community members with dominant social identities used power-based behaviors to maintain their social dominance within the University community. While assuming consent and using pressure or force seemed like obvious expressions of power and control, they were normalized to the point of being accepted or expected behaviors associated with sexual intimacy as part of the college experience. This was reinforced by

covert acts of power and control (victim blaming, self-blame, lack of awareness), which served to maintain dominance-based power and control.

Some students, through calls to action, began to name power and interrogate its normalization within college sexual experiences. These instances were not in the majority, highlighting the pervasive nature of power and control dynamics. Additionally, when students did speak out or confront their perpetrator, they were met with victim blaming or harassment; these behaviors highlighted the commitment to maintaining and protecting power. By illuminating the context in which power was exercised through gender-based violence, a clearer picture of its maintenance was brought forth.

As stated previously, college campuses echo the broader United States context in which universities and colleges are situated (Wooten, 2016). The themes and expressions of power and control outlined in this doctoral research project are specific to Downtown University, and yet the behaviors and attitudes are not restricted to one campus community. Rather, Downtown University serves as a single site where power and its expression via of gender-based violence perpetration is acted out. Students arrive on campus with socialized norms, attitudes, and beliefs that influence their actions on campus; they are replicating the phenomenon of GBV perpetration within the case of Downtown University. It will be the work of primary prevention programming to confront these universal norms that are specifically expressed on that campus.

Programmatic Recommendations from the Research

The composite description of the nature of GBV perpetration highlighted implications for next steps in the development of efforts to prevent gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University. A primary prevention program should address the

themes identified within the research, as well as essence of power-based behavior within the University community. Specifically, primary prevention should address power across the social ecology of the University; primary prevention programs should address the power associated with dominant identities; and primary prevention efforts should include education that confronts normalized attitudes and behaviors. Utilizing tenets of trauma-informed care and the power-conscious framework should inform these efforts.

As recommended by the literature (DeGue et al, 2014; American College Health Association, 2016; American College Health Association, 2018; Townsend, 2017; Schneider & Hirsch, 2018; McMahon et al, 2019), primary prevention programs should address skills and development within each domain of a student's social ecology, as well as across the domains of the model. This doctoral research project highlighted the importance of addressing power across the domains of the Social Ecological Model (individual, relationship, community, societal) in order to create primary prevention programs that confront power (ACHA, 2016). It will be especially important to develop prevention efforts and implement practices that confront power at the institutional level, empowering the University to take actions that center the experiences of victims/survivors. The University is not only responsible for responding to gender-based violence perpetration; it has the opportunity to confront power across all domains by examining power and the maintenance of dominance at the institutional level.

Therefore, opportunities to confront power should be embedded within the institutional context, as the community-level of a student's social ecology influences all other domains of their experience. By institutionalizing primary prevention practices that confront power, the implied norm will - within the community, in social settings, in

relationships, and even individually - become that power is confronted and not normalized. This is an innovative approach to prevention of gender-based violence perpetration and is supported by Linder's power-conscious framework (2018).

Programming at the institutional or community level can begin with ongoing education for Downtown University staff, administration, and faculty, as these community members have the most impact on campus policy and practice, and may remain in their roles for many years. These opportunities should reflect the six pillars of Linder's power-conscious framework. In fact, creating a curriculum of programs that follow the model would scaffold attendees learning; see Figure 17 for a proposed flow of programs based on Linder's framework.

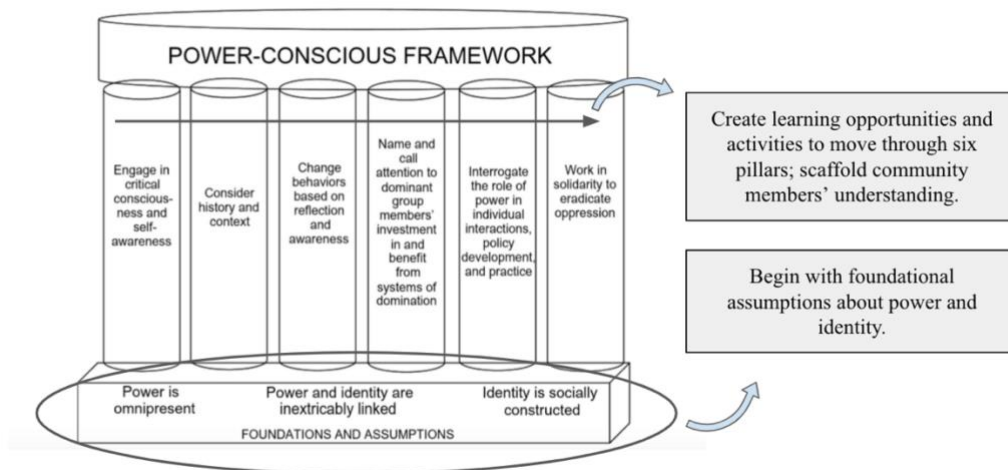


Figure 17: Flow of Programs for Downtown University

Institutionalized primary prevention programs at Downtown University should also address dominant identities and the power associated with those identities, as highlighted in the foundation of Linder's model. Specific identities are more vulnerable to recreating power dynamics, including masculinity and belonging to a fraternity.

Therefore, primary prevention efforts that highlight the relationship between identity and power, and emphasize critical consciousness and self-awareness for community members with dominant identities will be beneficial (Linder, 2018). The identity itself should not be problematized in the prevention programming. Instead, the power associated with that identity, as well as the assumptions normalized from that power, should be addressed.

Given the nature of power expressed through gender-based violence perpetration at Downtown University, primary prevention efforts should include specific measures that address both covert and obvious expressions of power and control. Discussing the power associated with social identities and relationships is one facet; programming that is power-conscious and confronts victim blaming and normalization should also be developed. Educational programs should be developed to confront attitudes such as entitlement and be behavior-specific, addressing the actions described in the codes and themes identified throughout this research project. This will interrupt the ideas that power and control is normal or to be expected, and will disrupt the maintenance of power and control.

These programs should be community specific and tailored to the community members who will receive the information (Banyard, 2011; Banyard, 2013; Banyard, 2014; Townsend, 2017; American College Health Association, 2018). For example, programming for first-year students should look different from programming for returning students, given the power dynamics associated with different academic years, as uncovered in this research project. Programs should create opportunities for students to build their self-awareness and confidence, and opportunities for students with dominant identities and/or social positionality to reflect on the associated power. Throughout,

students should be involved in the development and implementation processes, both as a means of empowerment and in attempts to work in solidarity to make change (Linder, 2018).

Overall, the research done in this doctoral project was campus specific: it provided a roadmap of the investigative process for one campus. The findings however, for preventionists and those who work in the field of gender-based violence on college campuses, may reflect familiar themes; colleagues may be unsurprised by the findings and recommendations. However, this doctoral research project modeled the utilization of a power-conscious framework to interrogate the role of power in gender-based violence perpetrated on one campus, and to make recommendations for essential program topics necessary to confront that power - instead of the behavior or the individual who perpetrated gender-based violence. The results yielded a specific composite of the role of power and its resulting expressions of harm at one campus, resulting in specific programmatic topics to be addressed. While the findings of this doctoral research project echoed the universal nature of power expressed in GBV perpetration, this project modeled a process for colleagues to utilize in their own communities. This process will result in nuanced, campus-specific prevention programs that are tailored to the community in which they will be implemented.

Research Boundaries

This doctoral project had boundaries that confined the scope of the research conducted. As stated previously, the specific findings of this study cannot and should not be extrapolated to other campuses. The intention of this study was to uncover the nature of power in perpetration of gender-based violence at Downtown University to inform a

campus-specific prevention curriculum. The data set is therefore unique to the University's campus and may not reflect the experiences at other colleges and universities. Best practice indicates that prevention programming should be university-specific and meet the needs of the specific populations it will serve. While the research process can be replicated, the findings and implications should not be applied to other campuses. Other boundaries include the scope of the data set, the location of the data set, and the relationship of research questions to the research framework.

The scope of the data set provided some boundaries around the type of information that was uncovered. For example, the data set may not have been reflective of all campus victims/survivors. Only individuals who had access to the internet, who used the Instagram app, and felt comfortable enough submitting their experience via a Google form were able to share their experiences. There could have been any number of barriers to a victim/survivor not sharing their experience with the @BetterDowntownUniversity activists and account; therefore, the data set is not representative of the experiences of all victims/survivors at Downtown University.

Within the data set, there is no way to identify the intersections of identity and gender-based violence perpetration beyond the identities shared within the posts; in the majority of posts, the identities of the victim/survivor are not mentioned and identities of the perpetrators were not discernable beyond gender (indicated via pronouns used). Having information about race, religion, sexuality, etc. would have contributed to more nuanced understanding of power in GBV perpetration. Since this data set did not allow for follow-up with the victims/survivors who posted, clarity and/or further detail could not be sought.

Since I could not follow up with victims/survivors, I was also unable to deeply interrogate the role of the institution in maintaining power and control among those with dominant identities and therefore more thoroughly understand the role of the institution in GBV perpetration. The majority of victims/survivors named Downtown University as responsible for negative outcomes following an experience of gender-based violence. Some, however, described instances where the University or other institutions with power did not take adequate action to prevent further harm. The focus of this doctoral research project was to uncover the role of power within perpetration of GBV to inform primary prevention programs, and not to interrogate the role of power and its effects in response to GBV perpetration. This was therefore a boundary in moving beyond identifying GBV perpetration as an individual problem, and to further interrogate the role of systemic power in gender-based violence perpetration.

The data set was hosted on an independent platform. If the Instagram app ever shut down, changed its privacy settings, or the posts made by victims/survivors were otherwise lost, the data set would be unavailable. Additionally, the student activists who run the account could decide to shut it down. The anonymous platform created a space for survivors to regain some power and use their voice; it also presented some boundaries to the data set and potential future collection and/or analysis efforts.

Similarly, the data set was analyzed on a platform that presented boundaries to its analysis. The posts were analyzed using an easily-accessible program, Microsoft Excel. I had intended to use additional software such as Nvivo, however there were file errors when I tried to upload my spreadsheet into the program. This resulted in a single researcher reviewing each post; missed codes or repeat phrases could have been

overlooked. While this study modeled an accessible process for other preventionists and colleagues to follow, accuracy could be enhanced through the use of a research program.

Finally, Linder's power-conscious framework (2018) contained six pillars, four of which were reflected in the research questions in this project. Two of the pillars, "engage in critical consciousness and self-awareness," and "change behaviors based on reflection and awareness," (Linder, 2018, p. 21) were not reflected in the research questions. This was intentional: both implied action on the part of the participant. Requiring the victim/survivor, the presumed research participants, to engage in self-reflection and behavior change seemed akin to victim blaming; it put the responsibility of action and change on the harmed parties. Instead, these pillars form the foundation for future research and application of the data findings in a prevention curriculum.

Recommendations for Future Study

This study highlighted opportunities for future research, both at Downtown University and on other campuses that may experience social media activism about gender-based violence. In both instances, researchers are encouraged to work with the social media activists to engage with the victim/survivor community when the posts are being made. This will ensure that the process is informed by those affected and meets their specific needs, modeling trauma-informed care and best programming practice. This collaborative research process should therefore include listening sessions and interviews to solicit further feedback from the community as posts are being made. This would allow for follow up, clarification, and a deeper understanding of the nature of gender-based violence perpetration in the campus community.

At Downtown University, future research should also include listening sessions and interviews; while they will not be timely to the release of the posts, they could nonetheless provide an opportunity for University staff to better understand the experience of GBV perpetration and the needs of the victim/survivor community. The follow-up research process should be used to clarify initial themes, gather identity-specific data, and develop further understanding of power and the intersection of different identities. This future research would increase the depth of understanding available to prevention professionals and further tailor the prevention programs to the University community. This future research process will also illuminate opportunities to interrogate power across the other domains of Linder's (2018) prevention, awareness, and response programming model, ensuring power is addressed within awareness and response efforts.

Other avenues of research could be expanded at the University. The annual climate survey could be expanded to include power-based questions, and/or questions that address perpetrator behavior. Rather than collecting and reporting only frequency data, reports should include information about diverse identities and their experience with GBV, qualitative feedback, as well as data about the attitudes of community members. Annual surveying of staff and faculty should also be addressed.

Critical Reflexivity

This doctoral research project provided me many opportunities for growth and critical reflection. I went into the research process with some assumptions about the codes and themes I would find; I believed that, as a preventionist, I had a solid grasp on the nature of perpetration at Downtown University. Throughout the process, I was presented with data and experiences that challenged the preconceived ideas I had about

gender-based violence and its relationship to power on the University campus. Practicing critical reflexivity throughout the process was essential for me to remain present, confront my limitations, and view the data with as little bias as possible. I journaled through this process; my data collection and reflection log is listed in Appendix C.

Though I journaled and bracketed my experiences, my research process could have benefitted from having a collaborative partner or to have been conducted as part of a research team. Within the parameters of a doctoral research project, this is not always permitted; however, for a professional conducting action research within their role, a research pair or team would be beneficial. I found myself wanting someone to deeply discuss the content with, or to talk through a breakthrough in the coding and theming process. Having a research partner or team would have supported deeper, critical work and acted as a check to any of my biases; working with a colleague or team would have also mitigated any boundaries presented by using Excel. Additionally, a research partner or team would have been helpful reading posts that were activating, such post #75 which echoes my own experience with gender-based violence. The journaling and reflective processes helped to mitigate biases or the influence of emotion on the analysis of the data; tending to the human element of the research and working in solidarity, though, would have elevated trauma-informed practice throughout the research project and would have modeled a transformational research process.

I also noticed feelings of fear or apprehension when conducting critical research at the University. As a local preventionist, I found myself wondering about the implication and effects of my research on my professional reputation and therefore capacity for employment during and following the research. I was tempted, a number of

times, to shy away from making critical statements, or statements that implicated the University as responsible for and/or complicit in the maintenance of power and therefore gender-based violence. However, this would have been a recreation of power and dominance structures. As hooks (1994) said, we cannot ask our students to share and be more courageous than we educators are willing to be. In order for true change or transformation to occur, I needed to identify the root causes of gender-based violence perpetration - power - that needed to be addressed. I used this as my guide to refocus myself when I struggled with sharing critical information.

Conclusion

Confronting power is difficult, as power thrives in systems that maintain and normalize its presence. Effective prevention of gender-based violence perpetration on a college campus requires the examination of the systems and structures that permit perpetration to occur. By addressing the root cause of perpetration - power and control - primary prevention programs can be tailored to meet the specific needs of a college or university community. This doctoral research project highlighted the specific themes of power via GBV perpetration present at Downtown University, and outlined a process for prevention professionals on other campuses to model in their development of programs. By creating effective primary prevention programs that address power as the root cause of gender-based violence perpetration, we can take steps toward preventing harm before it occurs; we can change the attitudes and beliefs that underlie perpetration and therefore make long-lasting cultural shifts to end gender-based violence.

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Appendix A: First Data Collection Table

Instagram Post #	Post Name	Content of Post	Post Notes
This number reflects each post as it is shared on the @BetterDowntown University Instagram, beginning with the first post (bottom of page) starting at 1.	Original (unedited) Posts: O-(post #)	Contains the direct copy/unedited content from the Instagram post.	Notes of my immediate thoughts, patterns, codes, themes, connections, etc.

Appendix B: Final Data Collection Table and Annotations

Instagram Post Number (#)	Post Content	Codes	Post Notes
1	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: Intro post (content no longer available)	none	
2	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: "We believe you. Sexual assault, harassment, and other forms of gender violence are too common on our campus and often go unchecked. We must do better. We intend to force the attention of the University administration and ask that they take direct action to stop gender violence. All posts will be ANONYMOUS. Thank you for sharing your story."	none	
3	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: Intro post (content no longer available)	none	
4	On New Years Eve I got blackout drunk at the apartment of someone I was dating. I woke up in their bed the next morning without any of my clothes on and there were a couple of marks on my body that made it clear that something sexual had happened between us. The last thing I remember from the night before is being asked whether I wanted take my shirt of and saying yes. I do not know what happened, exactly, and it has been really difficult to come to terms with the fact that I won't ever know exactly what happened.	DFSA, GN perp, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, VS impact	

5	<p>Two years ago, I got a tinder for the first time and met up with an RA while I was pretty drunk. I distinctly remember saying yes to him having sex with me and then put his dick in my ass. However, I wasn't moving and was just laying there. I wasn't responding or saying anything. Just laying there almost sleeping. It took me a really long time to realize that this wasn't consensual, so I didn't report it. Now he is one of my classes and I have to see him twice a week and it feels like I am reliving it every time he talks.</p>	<p>Power-social, masc perp, DFSA, AC-shift, VS impact, unaware, DNR</p>	<p>There seems to be an element of self-centeredness - the V/S wasn't engaging in the sexual act, but the perpetrator continued. Entitlement? Narcissism?</p>
6	<p>The first week of fall quarter I went to a party at a [Fraternity] house. I was drinking water that I had poured myself. The last thing I remember was trying to tell my friend that I felt weird, then I woke up hours later in the ER. I was told that I had been drugged by someone at the party. The scariest part about that experience was the complete lack of control that I had and the fact that I still can't remember events from that night.</p>	<p>attempted DFSA, social power, VS impact</p>	
7	<p>I met this Downtown University guy off of tinder. He picked me up from my dorm and brought me to his house right of campus. He gave me a big cup of wine that I watched him pour. He then pressured me into chugging it. After which we started making out. Everything was fine we fuck for like a minute, and then he asked me to give him a blowjob, I was ok with it so I did, and then he forced my mouth all the way down, it hurt so I said I don't want to have sex more. He said, "I'm sure you do" and proceeded to force my mouth back on him. I then told him I was done and turned around and tried to sleep. He then pulled the covers off of me and started jerking off. I could barely contain my tears so</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, pressure, force, not taking a no</p>	

	<p>I put on my clothes and hopped in an Uber. Practically running out the door. As soon as I got in the Uber I started crying.</p>		
8	<p>My freshman year at Downtown University I went to a guy's house to hang out as friends. He tried to get me to smoke but I said no. When his roommate got home he told me we had to go to his bedroom. My back was hurting so he offered to rub my shoulders. Next thing I knew he was kissing and touching me and on top of me and I just laid there frozen. He kept trying to get into my pants but I kept squirming away from him. The next day when I texted him that I did not like what happened his response was "I was trying to help I know girls get horny when they're on their period." I feel disgusted to this day. I didn't report it because I didn't think DU could do anything.</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, freshman, power-relational, attempted DFSA, AC-shift, not taking a no, VS Impact, DRN</p>	<p>Entitlement? Narcissism?</p>
9	<p>When I was a freshman I went to a fraternity formal with a friend. We were up in the mountains for the weekend, and we shared a bed. I assumed because I had been dating one of his friends, he wouldn't try anything; I was wrong. I was drunk the next day and we went up to our room to change, my friend pushed me down on the bed and began kissing me. I told him that we would make our mutual friend, who I was with at the time, really sad. He said, "It's fine, you're overreacting." I didn't think I was taken advantage of until after the fact when I heard I wasn't the first girl this had happened to. It's hard to trust guy friends because of this incident, and I wish I</p>	<p>freshman, power-social, power-relational, masc perpetrator, DFSA, not taking a no, unaware, VS impact, force, call to action</p>	<p>Along with not taking a no, there seems to be an element of the perpetrator not realizing what constitutes a no</p>

	wouldn't said something to prevent this from happening for other women. I didn't think I had enough of a reason to talk to the school, so I didn't. Consent is sober!!!!		
10	During my freshman year I met a Downtown University student on Tinder. He invited me off to his apartment after about a week of talking, I agreed. We had consensual sex but afterwards when I was laying in bed he kept trying to touch me. Despite me saying no, he got on top of me and kept truing said "I know you want this...". I pushed him off and left. I brushed the situation off as nothing, but now realize what it was. Just because I consented to one thing doesn't mean I consented to the other.	Freshman, masc perpetrator, AC-shift, unaware, call to action	
11	Freshman year I went to [Fraternity] and met this older boy. We were friends for a while as I was a virgin. One night we were watching a movie and playing video games, and went to sleep. I woke up to him on top of me as he forced himself inside me and covered my mouth. I was very traumatized and we proceeded to have sex a different time (I wanted to gain control back) and he didn't stop when I said it was to painful and again covered my mouth. He was a tour guide and downtown university refused to put limitations on his building access so he always lurked around [residence hall].	freshman, power-social, power-relational, masc perpetrator, SA, VS impact, not taking a no, power-institutional	

12	<p>My freshman year I met a guy and we started to hang out a lot. We started to have sex occasionally and after that, every time we hung out, he wanted to have sex. After a few times, he started to pressure me into doing things I wasn't comfortable with. I tried telling him this by the always guilted me into doing it. Once I fell asleep in his dorm and I woke up to him putting his dick inside me. I didn't know what to do. I pretend to still be asleep and I rolled away from him. After that, I stopped sleeping with him and would only see him in groups. He became an RA the next year and then went on to become a president of a frat. It took me two years to finally admit what happened to me. Even now, only one of my friends knows what happened and who it was. He's one of the most popular guys on campus and everyone talks about how nice and such a good guy he is. Every time I see him or a picture of him I wanna throw up.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, pressure, not taking a no, SA, power-social, VS impact, power-relational</p>	
13	<p>My freshman year I met a Downtown University guy off grindr. He texted me to come over after I was at some party. I was tipsy, but by no means drunk. When I got to his apartment we smoked a bit and I told him I was tired and was just going to sleep if that was alright. Instead he forced me to blow him and he started fingering me extremely aggressively saying "I know you like it like this" as I cried. Never really wanted to share because I just wanted to move past it.</p>	<p>freshman, LGBTQ, masc perpetrator, DFSA, not taking a no, force, VS impact</p>	
14	<p>Last year I was in [residence hall] and my friends and I went out to a party. I met one of my friends and walked back together. He took another route and showed his penis to me. I was so confused and he kept following me in the dark as I tried to walk away. I think we</p>	<p>Power-relational, masc perpetrator, HA, SA, VS impact</p>	

	<p>came back to my room and the next thing I know is that he tries to have sex with me but then he gets a phone call and leaves. I was so scared and I never see him anymore. Thank god.</p>		
15	<p>My first year, I became friends with a kid down the hall who had a girlfriend out of state. One day he approached me asking if I would wanna be friend with benefits cause his girlfriend was okay with it. I declined. Then one night I got a little too intoxicated so my friends, who were leaving [residence hall], put me in his room with another girl. He proceeded to push the other girl out of the room and started kissing me. He kept forcing himself onto me so I tried to leave. I finally got out but...before I made it back to my room he grabbed my wrist and pulled me back into his room. He kept forcing himself on me and the only reason I got out was because his roommate came home and saw me on the ground. The next day he threatened me and said I wasn't allowed to tell anyone. Him and his new girlfriend still harass me on campus. They've threatened my friends and have dumped drinks on me in bars.</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, masc perpetrator, not taking no, DFSA, force, HA</p>	
16	<p>When I was a junior I went to a party at Downtown University with a group of friends. I don't remember anything from that night but I woke up by myself the next morning with all of my clothes ripped to shreds on the floor. I was in pain, bleeding from my vagina and my nipples, and had no idea what had happened. The only reason I know who did it was because my housemate saw the person leave. I spent a week wearing bandaids over my nipples and a lot longer blaming myself for everything that went down.</p>	<p>SA, VS impact, potential DF</p>	

17	<p>I was sexually assaulted in spring of 2019. I have never felt safe since. It was day time, I was on the phone with my mom. He came up behind me and assaulted me. I had no control or strength, my mom had to hear the whole thing. It went to trial. I got the justice I needed, I was lucky. Every time I get a notification on my phone I am afraid to look knowing it could be a reminder of what happen to me, or something that has happened to someone else. The worst part of the situation is that the man who assaulted me was staying in the halfway house a block from campus. Downtown University has never and will never disclose the facts that the halfway house existence just a block off our campus.</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, SA, VS impact, power-institutional</p>	
18	<p>It was kind of a friend. A house that always threw parties. One night I saw him at redfords and I wasn't that interested but I was drunk enough and thought might as well try something new having never really had one night stands. There was a familiarity and a sense of trust with him being friends with so many people I trusted. We went back to his place in [residence hall] and had consensual sex. And as I tried to go to bed and say I'm tired etc. He put himself inside me and after multiple positions all of which were me just rag dolled being put in to those positions and because I was so not wet anymore he suggested his shower where I ended up getting a bruise on my forehead from how hard he was pushing against me. At the time I thought it was a bad one night stand. But a year later when my boyfriend at the time asked me if I had ever experienced sexual assault I told him this story and how it made me feel really weird. I then saw some friends</p>	<p>Power-relational, masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC-shift, unaware, VS impact</p>	

	<p>at my sports practice and one asked me what was wrong and I just started crying and panicking that I had been raped a year ago and didn't even realize. The word rape is really loaded so thank god for Downtown University's counseling services because therapy really helped me realize that this incident doesn't define me and I have power over my voice and I have a choice. They guy left Downtown University after that year – again thank god. My therapist at the time at Downtown University did offer to keep us apart if he was still there. I don't even remember his name anymore...</p>		
19	<p>One week I was out with my friends at a party and ended up meeting with a guy. The whole night I just stayed with my friends and him but he constantly was wanting to leave and trying to get me to go with. At some point I lost my friends and told the guy that I would leave after I found them and made sure they were good after a few minutes I couldn't find them so I just left with him. Eventually me and him leave and go back to the dorms where I let him spend night cause I had my roommate in my room and knew nothing was going to happen. In the middle of the night I wake up to his hands in my pants and I tried to fall back asleep and act like it wasn't happening but he wouldn't stop. I eventually stopped him and he left later in the morning.</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, AC- unable to confirm, AC- shift, SA</p>	
20 (begin cover photos)	<p>Freshman year I went to a party at Lambda with my friends and drank a lot. All of my friends went to hook up with guys and I was pressured to do the same. I don't remember the guy's name, I wasn't even attracted to him. We made out and he pulled so hard on my lip with his teeth that I bled. I told him</p>	<p>freshma, power-social, masc perpetrator, pressure, not taking a no, force, AC-</p>	

	<p>repeatedly that I didn't want to have sex, so he guilted me into a blow job. He forced himself so hard into my mouth that I was crying as it was happening...I spent the night because I didn't want to walk back along at night. I woke up and he tried to have sex with me and I said no. When I left I looked in the mirror and it looked like I had gotten punched in the mouth because he had been so rough.</p>	<p>unable to confirm</p>	
<p>21</p>	<p>I went to a [Fraternity] date party with a kid that was a friend of my friends date, but I didn't really know. After, I went back to his apartment with a group of friends. I was extremely drunk, went to the bathroom, and when I came out everyone was gone besides my date. He asked if I wanted to lay in bed and I explicitly told him I was too drunk and tired to hook up, I was gonna walk back to my dorm. He told me he understood but I shouldn't walk back alone it was dangerous, I could just crash at his place tonight. I had made myself clear in regards to hooking up, and he seemed like a nice genuine dude, so I agreed. We went to bed with nothing happening, but only a few minutes after falling asleep I woke up to him in only his underwear on top of me, ripping my underwear off (I was in a dress). I told him "I'm too drunk for this" but he said "it's okay" and held me down. After a minute or so of me crying and struggling to get him off me, I managed to get out from underneath him. I left half my belongings there, only grabbing my phone before running out of the apartment.</p>	<p>Power-social, masc perpetrator, DFSA, not taking a no, force, AC-shift, AC-unable to confirm</p>	

22	<p>Two years ago, I took a seminar class where I met three seniors. They invited me to go swimming at one girl's house and I ended up getting pretty drunk due to the hot tub and activity. One boy offered to drive me back since he was sober. I tried to leave him in the [residence hall] circle but he followed me upstairs and forced himself into my room. He got on top of me and tried to force himself on me. My suite-mate was woken up by the noise and knocked on my door to see if I was home. He got freaked out and ran out past her and I never told her what she saved me from. It wasn't for a long time that I realized what had actually happened to me. I hope that one day I'll be able to tell my suite-mate how much she changed my life.</p>	<p>Power-social, DFSA, masc perpetrator, force, unaware</p>	
23	<p>My freshman year I was in a relationship. I was always scared of intimacy as a result of my lack of confidence in my body. He was a very outwardly sweet guy who made me feel beautiful and wanted. But he would push for sexual acts even when I didn't want to. I would say no repeatedly but he would do things that made me very uncomfortable. He would touch and push his dick against me when I didn't want to. Penetration never happened unconsentually but as time passes I realize that this was sexual assault. People always say that it's not assault unless you were penetrated, but assault is valid as long as one party says no. It took me a while to understand this because I trusted him deeply. I am even more scared of intimacy after this and I'm still working towards being vulnerable to future partners and with myself. I want to share my story to let people know</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, masc perpetrator, pressure, not taking a no, unaware, SA, VS impact</p>	

	<p>that their stories are valid no matter what form it comes in.</p>		
24	<p>Fall quarter 2019 a freshman boy and I left the bar together. He took me to his truck and we hooked up. It was consensual at first, but quickly became painful. I kept asking him to stop doing certain things and 5 minutes later he would do that thing again. He was very persuasive and pushy, but eventually I got out and left. My vagina was bleeding from his fingering me and my boobs had painful scratch marks and bite marks...I got back, so confused about what had just happened to me. I showered like three times because I felt so disgusting. I didn't know how to process what happened because I have heard so many worst stories of sexual assault. I know for a fact that this has happened to other girls. We all have the same story. We have been taken to his truck and assaulted. I never told anyone besides close friends and I don't know if anyone else has but I hope that if this has happened to you, you know you are not alone. How is it that we live in a world where a boy can get away with this multiple times?</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, AC-shift, not taking a no, pressure, force, VS impact, call to action, SA</p>	

25	<p>A couple weeks into my doctoral program in the Fall of 2015, I was walking back to my car parked at Observatory Park and saw a guy get on top of a sunbathing woman. At first I thought they knew each other, but then she squirmed and screamed for help. I approached them and asked if she was ok. She was not. She said something like... "I don't know him and he just got on top of me!" He ran away immediately and she told me he got on her and started grinding on her. She told me she was a Freshman who just moved here. I called the cops and stayed with her while they came. She was crying and repeating the same thoughts, like, "I said no." I gave the cops my story and described the guy. They were aware of him. He had done similar to a handful of Downtown University students in the area. They said they'd contact me, but never did. I don't know what happened.</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, secondary survivor, SA, freshman, power-institutional, VS impact</p>	
26	<p>I used to be friends with lots of [Fraternity Men] all through freshman year. I became really close with one coming into sophomore year, until one night I went to a party with him and remembered nothing after arriving at the party and having a drink. The next morning, I woke up sideways on my bed with no covers, still in the shirt from the night before but my jeans and underwear were around my ankles. I didn't report it, and I even felt ashamed and dirty because I couldn't remember whether I said yes or not, but then I realized that I was way to intoxicated to consent. Plus, I had no feelings or attraction to the guy, I was involved with someone else. This was a guy I considered a friend who I thought I could trust and wouldn't take advantage of me. Now, I keep</p>	<p>power-social, masc perpetrator, DFSA, power-relational, VS impact, DNR, AC-unable to confirm</p>	

	my head down walking to classes, I don't go out, and I feel like I can't trust anyone.		
27	<p>Okay so freshman year one of my guy friends walked me home after the bars and I was telling him about a bad hook up experience that I had a few weeks earlier. He was very aware that I was upset. When we got back to my dorm room my roommate wasn't there and we talked for a little bit before he leaned in to kiss me. I was fine with kissing him but then he got on top of me and asked if we could have sex...I said no. He continued to kiss my neck and grind up on me and asked again in a few minutes if we could have sex. I said I didn't want to and this cycle continued for a little bit until I felt pressured to say yes since he didn't stop asking or grinding on me. He told me he had wanted to do this for a long time and then I dissociated. After he finished I cried and he got mad that my eyes glazed over and "it was like having sex with a dead person."</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, masc perpetrator, AC-shift, not taking a no, pressure, SA, VS impact</p>	
28	<p>During my first year at Downtown University a kid on my floor invited me to his room. We were drinking whiskey and he kept pressuring me to drink more than I felt comfortable with. Then we started kissing and I was enjoying that. He tried to take off my shirt and I told him no. As soon as I said no it seemed like something snapped and he got SO angry. He got on top of me and was kissing me really aggressively while grabbing my boobs. The next day I confronted him about it, because I</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, DFSA, pressure, AC-shift, not taking a no</p>	

	<p>was just so confused about why that happened. He told me that people don't tell him no and he knew I wanted a guy who could take charge.</p>		
29	<p>I had gone to [Fraternity]'s champagne and shackles that night. I blacked out right about when the bottle was almost empty. Black out black out. I don't remember anything from that point, still zip tied to my date, until I wake back up in the parking lot being the bar in the back of a car with a man over me. Everything is a little fuzzy and I don't even reconcile his face. I'm screaming and crying. I black out again. Next thing I know I'm on the phone crying in the middle of the alley with my dress half off at 3 in the morning. The worst part about it is that everything is fuzzy. It's traumatizing.</p>	<p>power-social?, DFSA, masc perpetrator, VS impact, AC- unable to confirm</p>	
30	<p>During halloween my freshman year, I got separated from my friend as the bars were kicking everyone out. My phone was nearly dead. A guy at the bar saw me looking around for my friend, and noticed I was anxious. He told me that he lived right around the corner and had a golden retriever puppy, and that I could come over, charge my phone, warm up, and find my friend. I thanked him, and we walked to his apartment. As soon as I crossed the threshold, I noticed an empty dog crate... there was no dog. I asked where his dog was, and he said that he was at training camp. I remember the feeling of my stomach violently dropping, and then he was raping me. I froze in shock. Afterwards, he told me that I couldn't leave because I was too drunk and campo would send me to detox if I tried walking home. His roommate noticed I was</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, SA, AC- shift, power- social, power- institutional, VS impact, did report</p>	

	<p>upset, and he said I could have his bed for the night. He showed me where it was, and once I got under the covers, he got in bed too, and assaulted me. I froze again. Terrified, as he had his way with my limp body. I woke up three hours later with my heart pounding in my chest, and sprinted out of there. I reported it later that week, but they were both found innocent. Word spread to a fraternity, and they publicly ridiculed me for it...They called me a slut, a bitch, and a liability for “having drunk sex and calling it rape.” I reported all of the backlash to the school, constantly meeting with administration, and even having my parents visit with the chancellor. That happened in November, 2013. As an alumni barely making ends meet while recovering from PTSD, I am furious that Downtown University has done nothing, despite countless pleas for help from their students.</p>		
31	<p>This pertains more to gender violence but I was in a domestically abusive relationship for 3 years, for 2 of them he was physically abusive. I didn't realize what he was doing was wrong till I came out to my family at the beginning of my freshman year. I was being gaslighted and for the longest time I blamed myself because he said I had provoked him. He almost killed me on multiple occasions and I filed against him to have my case not even make it to trial even with multiple forms of documentation of him admitting everything. He goes to Downtown University and still sometimes updates threatening Instagram bios to manipulate me which my friends check on to protect me. He's in student government, he's a [Fraternity] member, and so many people think he's a</p>	<p>DV, unaware, masc perpetrator. freshman, power-institutional, power-social, VS impact, call to action</p>	

	<p>great person. I feel guilty sometimes for not name dropping because I don't want anyone ever to go through what I went through, but I also fear his vengeance and not finding peace. Some days I have really huge fears of him coming for me, or even dating again because he said he would go after whoever I dated. It's really hard being on the same campus as your abuser and I think it goes to show how much more we need to improve as a society to protect survivors...</p>		
32	<p>Freshman year, I went to a [fraternity] party with my roommate and friends. My roommate got a drink from somewhere and couldn't finish it, so I took the rest of it. I ended up getting separated from my group and saw a guy that I was in my FSEM with. He was talking about how he had wanted to get with me for a while and I was so confused, so I kept diverting the conversation back to a paper we had due...Next thing I know, he's pinning my wrists above my head against a wall and saying things like "it's funny how you think you can get away." I could barely move or speak. I couldn't even believe what was going on. Two girls eventually stepped in and I got home ok. My roommate later came to me and said that she thought someone had put Xanax in the drink or something. It was so crowded at that party but only three people thought to intervene. Things like this just change you.</p>	<p>freshman, DFSA, masc perpetrator, power-relational, not taking a no, VS impact</p>	

33	<p>It was 2nd quarter of my freshman year. 2019. Met this guy at the bar, he had an eye for me, I'd never seen him before. He took me back to the ZBT house and what I thought was going to be casual sex turned into him pinning me down, be extremely rough and wouldn't stop when I said stop. After it was over I was too afraid to move or say anything...I thought if I pretended to sleep it would just be morning soon. He kept forcing my hand while I was 'sleeping' and I said I was going to just go home. He got really defensive and told me to stay. In the morning he took me home and acted like everything was okay. I didn't say a word, I was disgusted. I didn't realize the magnitude of what happened until later. It still stays with me today and always will. It's not okay and you're not alone.</p>	<p>Freshman, masc perpetrator, power-social, SA, AC-shift, not taking a no, VS impact, unaware, Call to action</p>	
34	<p>After having a blind date with a guy in my residence hall freshman year, I went to his floor to pregame for later parties. I woke up alone in my room the next morning with no memory of going out, or of coming back to his room and having sex. I had no idea what happened until the next day when he asked for round two. He claims that he had no idea I was blacked out.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, freshman, DFSA, no idea, AC-unable to confirm</p>	
35	<p>My first year at downtown university I went out for Halloween and got really drunk at a frat party. I remember walking to the bars and into border with my friends. I don't remember anything until I woke up, not knowing where I was/whose bed I was in. My dress from the night before was halfway off my body and I was not wearing any underwear, I realized my vagina hurt badly...I realized I was in a different dorm next to a guy who I had some mutual friends with. He had just woken up</p>	<p>DFSA, freshman, masc perpetrator, DNR, power-social, VS impact, AC-unable to confirm</p>	

	<p>and wasn't wearing any clothes. I got up and said I had to go, he was fine with it. I went to the bathroom that was on his floor and saw that my vagina was bleeding...After getting ahold of his number, I texted him later asking what happened, and he said we were both drunk and just fell asleep. I knew that wasn't true because my vagina bled for 3 days after and hurt for a week, but I wanted to forget about it so I didn't say anything...I still don't really know what happened, I just told my friends that we were super fucked up and hooked up. I know I shouldn't have gotten that drunk and everyone says he is such a nice guy, so I try to think it was nothing but even now, a year later, whenever I think about what happened I feel disgusting and embarrassed.</p>		
36	<p>Around the 3rd week of my freshman year at Downtown University I started hooking up with a sophomore. During our 4th time hooking up (all had been consensual up to that point), I noticed about halfway through that he wasn't wearing a condom and I clearly remembered him putting one on..I pushed him off of me and asked him where the condom was and he tried to convince me that I told him to take it off and I was so drunk that I didn't remember. I was drunk but not nearly enough that I would forget that or that I would do that as I never have sex without one...I felt extremely violated and told him to leave but he refused and insisted on sleeping over. I eventually gave in and didn't sleep at all because I felt so angry and violated and he wouldn't stop pushing his dick up against me the whole night. While I know this could have been a lot worse I wanted to share because I know this has happened to many girls and so</p>	<p>Freshman, power-relational, AC-shift, SA, VS impact, not taking a no, call to action</p>	

	<p>many people don't understand that taking off a condom without permission from both parties is assault. I consented to SAFE sex.</p>		
37	<p>I was heavily drinking and smoking with a friend one night. The night ends and she went to bed in my absent roommate's place upstairs. Then about an hour later I get a message from a guy who I liked. He said he wanted to come over to chat and smoke...I invited him over thinking that we'd just chat. I just wanted to finish my drink for the night and go to sleep. He kept putting more alcohol into my drink until I was near blackout. Which is when he took me to my room "to put me to bed" and proceeded to hold me down and rape me. I felt frozen, useless, and ashamed the whole time. I woke up with my asshole bleeding. I told my parents hoping that they could help me figure out how to do something about it. When instead they told me it's my fault for acting that way, it was bound to happen to me since I'm gay, and that it's my fault it happened to me for not being careful enough.</p>	<p>DFSA, masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift, pressure, VS impact, did report, LGBTQ, victim blame</p>	
38	<p>I was in a relationship freshman year. She seemed like a very sweet, caring girl, but I was often pressured into sexual acts that I was uncomfortable with. She would share intimate details between us with her friends. These friends would criticize me based on what she told them and attempt to pressure me into more acts that I wasn't okay with. I also remember an instance when she initiated</p>	<p>freshman, fem perpetrator, pressure, coercion, trust, didn't realize it counted, SA</p>	

	<p>sexual acts while I had been asleep. After more time goes by and reading these other posts, I realize that this relationship was all sexual assault. I was in denial for a while because I thought I had trust in this person.</p>		
39	<p>My Freshman year, I was being stalked by another student. He was entering my dorm room when I wasn't there (my roommate frequently didn't lock the door when she left). One time he left beer, and drugs on my bed. He also made comments about wanting to take pictures of me in my underwear...He would wait outside of my classes for me even though he didn't have any classes at that time of near there. The list of creepy things he was doing and saying to me goes on and on. What's really important was I spoke to the RD in [residence hall] and some other person who's title I'm forgetting...They straight up asked me if I was doing anything to lead him on, and I think I was interested in him and asked me other inappropriate questions like why he even started approaching me in the first place. I even had texts that he sent me in which he stated he was on drugs and another text that stated, "I moved away from my dorm because I was afraid I was going to hurt you." They then proceeded to tell me that they couldn't help me because he hadn't actually done anything to me yet. Which I essentially translated to when he does finally physically sexually assault you then come back to us. Stalking is sexual assault and Downtown University does not care. Thank you guys for sharing these stories and taking initiative.</p>	<p>freshman, mas perpetrator, ST, did report, power-institutional, victim blame, call to action</p>	

40	<p>I met his one boy last year at Downtown University and he would sext me saying he wanted blow jobs and wanted to fuck me so hard that I wouldn't be able to walk. He would send me explicit videos. He was a friend of mine, but every time we talked, he always talked about having sex with me in weird ways...He would grab my boobs and thigh even though I said No. He would call me a bitch and other names because I refused to do anything with him. The words used by him disgusted me and I don't want to think about it, but it's hard for me.</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, HA, power-relational, SA, pressure, VS impact</p>	
41	<p>It was my freshman year and two days before my nineteenth birthday. I was sexually assaulted and that's how I lost my virginity. I asked him to stop and he kept going. He left right after to hang out with his friends and I immediately ran out of his room and cried in the shower surrounded by blood. I never processed what happened and thought being in back to back relationships would make the pain go away. But I got into an abusive relationship months after, where I was hurt in every form and got my life taken away from me. It took a long time to recover and get it back..but now I have my world back and more. I finally have hope for the future instead of feeling like I'm dying everyday. I still struggle with trust issues with men. I fully believe I am all I have at the end of the day and the only person that I can 100% love and trust is me. No one else. I'm the only person who can fight my battles and defend myself. I don't anyone else to take care of me, because I take care of myself. And I refuse to let anyone in the way I used to again, because</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, SA, force, DV, VS impact</p>	

	I don't want to risk my body being abused again.		
42	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: requests for policy and practice change	none	
43	I ran into a friend at C&G that I usually felt safe with and had known for a while. At the bar he suggested we go back to my dorm to hang out. Once we were there we started kissing and I pulled away and said I didn't want to have sex. He said it was fine and we kept making out, but he would put his hand up my shirt and down my pants and I repeatedly said I didn't want to have sex. Eventually he had his pants off and pressured me to keep going. He asked why I would bring him back to my room in the first place if it wasn't for sex. I was drunk and unsure of what to do, but I ended up letting him do what he wanted. I fell asleep and after a while he got on top of me again, and I woke up to him inside me without a condom. Afterwards I felt disgusting, but I didn't realize how wrong it was. Over the past couple years, other girls told me that he pressured them into sex while they were drunk. Even now, I have no idea what I can do to help them or stop him.	power-relational, masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC-shift, AC-unable to confirm, unaware, VS impact, call to action	

44	<p>During my freshman year at Downtown University, I went to a party with some friends. I got sorta drunk and the next thing I know a boy is leading me up to a room in another part of the house. I said no to everything and that I was tired and didn't want to do anything.....but I must have fallen asleep because the next thing I remember when I woke up was him on top of me, forcing himself on me. I was able to shake him off, so nothing beyond that happened, but I left completely traumatized. I found out later that my friends had left early but they knew the guy who was leading me away from the party. They were completely pissed when they found out what he did. I haven't been to a party since and I'm afraid to be vulnerable with people now.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC-unable to confirm, VS impact, power-relational, not taking a no</p>	
45	<p>My first quarter at Downtown University, I drunkenly went home from a party with a guy I liked. We made out and I may have given him oral, but I declined when he asked if we could have penetrative sex (I had not been penetrated before and I didn't want that to be my first time). He kicked me out of his room--it was 2AM. I lived on the other side of campus, and I had to walk back to my dorm alone. This was not assault but it was one of many instances that taught me that I would have to say yes to sexual activity if I wanted men to treat me with respect. Years later, when I was assaulted I didn't see it as an assault at first because I was pressured and said yes to something I didn't really want. It has taken me a long time to reprogram my brain to believe that I deserve respect regardless of my sexual contribution to a relationship.</p>	<p>freshman, DFSA, masc perpetrator, power-relational, pressure, not taking a no, unaware, VS impact</p>	<p>This is an example of a student connecting the expectation of sex to value or social/relationship value. Not sure where it goes, but I wonder if more data come forward to illuminate this point/it can act as support</p>

46	<p>I went to a party thrown by my own fraternity last spring; I was just stopping by to say hi to friends I had been too busy to see for the past couple months. I had a drink; I woke up in a hospital and my blood tested positive for rohypnol/benzodiazepine. Being a white male, I never thought something like this could happen to me. I don't know if it was as meant for me: I do know that I will never forget the shame and anxiety that comes from waking up and not knowing what I had done and or what happened to me. Someone exerted control over my body and it will take years to be comfortable being myself again.</p>	<p>DFSA, V/S impact, power-social</p>	<p>VS explicitly named element of power</p>
47	<p>My freshman year at Downtown University I got pretty drunk and ended up off campus with my friends. It was getting to be about 3 in the morning and I didn't want to walk all the way back to [residence hall]. One of the juniors I was with said I could stay at his house because his couch was free. I was tired and said yes. We get to his house and he says that someone was sleeping on his couch so we had to share his bed. I get to his bedroom and he told me I could sleep naked if I felt like it. I told him no. Meanwhile he kept touching me and I kept asking him to stop. He then tried to force me to drink water by his bed I kept saying no. I got up to leave and he grabbed me and wouldn't let me go. I shoved him off me and I ran to the door. On my way out I saw there was nobody sleeping on the couch. He then followed me all the way back to my dorm, still groping me and asking to spend the night in my dorm. The whole walk back he kept saying that I shouldn't walk at night by myself because there were people that wanted to rape and harm me. I know it's not rape but</p>	<p>freshman, DFHA, power-social, AC-shift, force, not taking a no, masc perpetrator</p>	

	<p>I didn't consent to any of what happened that night.</p>		
48	<p>Freshman year, I was at border dancing with a senior guy and we decided to go back to my room. When we got back, he immediately started kissing me and taking my clothes off. When we started to have sex, it became very rough and painful. He asked me if I was okay and I responded saying it hurt a lot and I thought we needed to stop. He did not stop and I felt helpless underneath the weight of his body. When it was over, he tried to sleep in my bed, but I told him my roommate was coming back to get him to leave. The constant bleeding and the ache in my pelvis was a constant reminder of what had happened for the next week. For the next several months I became nervous anytime a man was close to me I would constantly see him at border and I would become very anxious. I am just so thankful that he was a senior and I don't have to see him anymore</p>	<p>Freshman, power-social, masc perpetrator, AC-shift, SA, VS impact</p>	

49	<p>I was at a friend’s place in [residence hall] the other night. Eventually, around midnight, I decided to leave and go back to [residence hall], where I live. As I was about to leave, she said that one of her friends who was watching a movie or something in the next room, needs to go to [residence hall] and asked me if I could walk her. I said yes. And so her friend and I started walking from [residence hall] to the other end of campus. As we were passing [restaurant] a car whizzed past us and the men in the car looked at my companion and yelled “Show me that pussy, girl!” And then they saw me so they apologized...to me. I was startled and even though she asked me not to worry and told me this was an insignificant incident that happens all the time, I still cannot stop thinking about it. As a cis-man I have never been catcalled neither had I heard someone being catcalled until that incident. It terrifies me, as a man, to think about the kind of unquestioning sexual power and privilege that we have enabled in men as a society. It terrifies me to think that acts like this are so normalized that the girl who was with me did not even think it was out of ordinary. This scares and disheartens me even to this day.</p>	power-social, power-relational, secondary survivor, HA, masc perpetrator	post speaks directly to experience of a masculine person not realizing impact of GBV, social system, social power
50	<p>One night when I was out at a bar, a girl that I kind of knew came up to me and tried to make out with me. I wasn’t interested and told her so but she was pretty drunk and she continued to try and grind on me and feel up my crotch, my ass and kept trying to kiss me. Multiple people, both guys and girls, saw what was happening and didn’t say or do anything (since they assumed that as a guy, I was wanting it). She eventually put her arms</p>	fem perpetrator, not taking a no, SA, power-social	post speaks to nature of gender socialization and expectations; societal impact on GBV

	<p>around my neck and tried to kiss me again. She managed to give me a hickey. I didn't try and force her off of me because she was really drunk and I didn't want to hurt her or make a scene. It eventually took three people to pull her off of me. I used to share that story with my friends and it would get some laughs and I would just laugh along too. This year though, I went and saw a therapist and shared my story and my therapist was the first to tell me and call the incident that happened a sexual assault. Nevertheless, given the gender roles of our society, I struggle seeing myself as a victim, even though that incident impacts my life everyday.</p>		
51	<p>I was assaulted and raped within the first few months I was at Downtown University. The first was almost identical to another post on this page which inspired me to speak out because I know it was the same person. He had a girlfriend away from Downtown University and approached me about an open relationship, since I was dating someone else I declined but he pushed until I had no choice but to accept. I didn't know how to say no without making him upset and not want to be friends. One night he walked me home for a [Fraternity] party after his own [Fraternity] party and I told him he was too drunk to walk back to his dorm to make sure he didn't get hurt but he took that differently. He agreed and stripped off all of his clothes and jumped into bed which I thought was weird. Soon after he was on top of me, I remember being so close to blacking and falling in and out of sleep. I said yes to him because I was alone and didn't want to make things worse but I prayed he would stop before sex. He did but I</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, power-social, force, not taking no, AC-shift, AC-unable to confirm, victim blame, HA, VS impact, call to action, masc perpetrator</p>	<p>example of social power within organizations</p>

<p>was assaulted. Even though we had Sexual Assault Training the week before I was sexually assaulted in my own bed on campus. I had bruises covering my body and my vagina bled for a week. My throat hurt from being forced to give head. His girlfriend wasn't in an open relationship with him and my boyfriend broke up with me when I called him crying for help the next morning yelling cheater at me through the line. Another [Fraternity] boy found out and gaslighted me into a rape relationship where we had sex that way he claimed, he wouldn't tell my friends or boyfriend about the first assault. I was gaslighted for months and even told that I used him for sex when I eventually realized my assault and broke off things with him. However, he chased after my other friends telling them about our sex and how he wanted to date me. Now both boys have me banned from [Fraternity], berate me whenever I go out, and continue to attack me and my friends with rumors, lies, and hate. My best friends hang out with my rapist. And I have PTSD now as a result and can't hang out with them or spend much time on campus. I wish I spoke out sooner but I have been so afraid of what people may say but I survived assault and months of rape and the people who did it deserve to be exposed. Don't ever let someone gaslight you into deceit.</p>		
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52	<p>Sophomore year, I went to Lambda's spring formal with one of my good friends. I wanted to because one of my girl friends was going and I told him I'd go if he couldn't find a date. I never thought saw him as a potential sexual partner. The first night, everyone was drinking really heavy. I remember at one point, I was in our room and one of his fraternity brothers followed me and shut the door behind him. I told him I was drunk and didn't need another shot and he pressured me into taking one saying "no one will know if the door is closed" I continued drinking throughout the night and ended up blacking out. According to my girl friend I was with, I was dancing in my underwear and she went to put me to bed. She got ahold of the guy I went with and told him that I was really drunk and needed to go to bed. She left us two in the room and the next morning I woke up wearing just shorts with no underwear and my vagina hurt. My heart dropped and I asked if we had unprotected sex the night before and he told me "yeah, it's a shame you don't remember the good times that were had" I will never forget he said that to me. I went to the bathroom and immediately threw up (I have had stress pukes ever since this happened) I called my friend, told her that we had sex, and that I was not okay with it. I expressed nothing to him because we had the rest of the weekend in the same room together and I actually worried I would make things awkward. Once we got back to campus, my friend helped me contact the president of Lambda to tell him what had happened. He told her they would bring it up at chapter and I never heard anything else about it. The next year, I was approached at parties as "the girl</p>	<p>power-relational. not taking a no, pressure, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA, Did report. power-institutional, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	
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	<p>from the *** situation” by other fraternity members. I was forced to live a block away from my attacker the entirety of junior year. Still feeling distressed, I decided to reach out to the fraternity again myself. This was difficult because the president at the time had been in my FSEM and used to date my close friend. Regardless, I reached out and the response was that. I had to go through title IX to report and that the fraternity couldn’t do anything. So I decided to go through with the reporting process. What was supposed to take only 60 days lasted 4 months. 4 months of me having to retell the same trauma multiple times a week. Having a private investigator call my closest friends asking them about my drinking/drug habits and sexual history. All of this to have the University tell me the results were inconclusive so they couldn’t do anything. I lost friends, hope, desire to do anything. For one final blow, on my graduation day, they had my seating placed right next to my attacker. I had a panic attack on graduation day in front of my peers because the University refuses to take these accounts seriously. As of now I hate even being near campus because I’m forced to be reminded of the two and a half years I was ignored.</p>		
53	<p>Most of my friends are in this one specific fraternity. I love the people in this fraternity. Except a few. When I was at their party during the second part of my first year, I was already a little tipsy. I was talking to some of the brothers in the fraternity. One kept talking which I didn’t mind. My friends decided to call it a night and we left the party. Said fraternity brother joined us. He walked with</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, DFSA, power-social, force, VS impact</p>	

	<p>us. He was holding on to me since I was falling at some point. He thought it was right to dead on kiss me there. I just turned away. He wanted me to return to his dorm but I refused. He nearly dragged me away from my friends. I kept screaming a friend's name and she came by. She took me by the arm and we ran. Our other friends were confused. When I told the others what happened, one of them didn't believe me. He made it seem like I wanted it. I did not. This said fraternity brother is still in said fraternity. Everytime I want to hang out with brothers of said fraternity, he's there. I'm scared to be alone with him. Some brothers vowed to never leave me alone with him. I am grateful to those brothers and friends who believed me and helped me out.</p>		
54	<p>My senior year I had slept with a guy who was friends with my roommate and other mutual friends, the first time was fully consensual. The second time it began consensually, until I was in pain. I began to push him back as he was inside of me but he kept going. I said "ow" "please stop" on multiple occasions. I even stopped and began to give him oral, just so he would stop penetrating me, which ultimately lead me to feel more confused than ever about the nature of my assault. I'll never forget him saying "I'm not stopping until someone cums". Eventually it did end and he said something about my "overly sensitive clit". I was so swollen that my vagina was unrecognizable and in serious pain for several days and it took me until my roommate confronted me about who I was with the night before to realize what had happened was not ok. On the</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, AC-shift. SA, not taking a no, VS impact</p>	

	<p>day of my graduation, my family took me to dinner downtown and he was sitting in the booth next to me. I vomited in the bathroom. I still don't think he has any idea that I feel what happened between us was rape.</p>		
55	<p>I already posted the story of my assault on this page. However, I feel that I need to share this story as well. This account has really helped me move forward and start healing. So, I decided to report the boy who assaulted me to the school. This was roughly a week ago. It is terrifying and I'm proud to say that I did that. No one has bothered to reach out to me or anything of the sort. Shouldn't our school be dealing with this situation? It pains me that our school is doing nothing to help. I was vulnerable and shared my story with them....they have done nothing....and that makes me feel unsafe. They know who I am, they know who he is. This is not how a school should handle a report of sexual assault.</p>	<p>SA, masc perpetrator, power-institutional, VS impact, call to action</p>	
56	<p>When I was 14 I was at my best friends birthday party and slept over on her couch. I woke up to her older brothers penis on my face. He then went on to rape me. I came to Downtown University and very quickly realized he was a senior here. I saw him a lot around campus and he even came up to me one time at border and started hitting on me. I had a panic attack and tried to get as far away from him as possible. He flipped me off as he saw me walking away crying and struggling to breathe. I started to isolate myself in fear of seeing him, turning down invites to parties</p>	<p>did not occur at Downtown University</p>	

	<p>and such with my friends. Although the assault didn't happen at Downtown University it still greatly effected my first year. I was depressed because of how alone I felt and there wasn't anything I could do because it had been 4 years since he raped me.</p>		
57	<p>Last quarter, one of the guys on the basketball team had offered me his jacket-I was barely drunk, just a little cold. We were separated when I went to back to my dorm and he went to the bar. After he was done he asked me to hang out- I didn't really want to but I knew this would give me an opportunity to give his jacket back. When I informed him that my roommate was sleeping, he insisted that we walk back to his place. We made the long walk back to his dorm and just talked. When we got there, he told me to sit on the bed and he went to turn off the lights. Almost immediately he started making out with me. Not even two minutes in, he asked me "are you going to get a condom or not?" Begrudgingly, I got one out, feeling as if I had no other choice. It was phrased as if the sex was inevitable, but the condom was my choice. He's also very tall and strong, which is intimidating. After he put the condom on, he began to be really rough and it hurt; when he finished, it was all over me, meaning there was no condom. When I asked him about it, he said "it must've fallen off." After getting dressed, we went into the other room to his bed (which is when I learned we were on his roommates bed). He said I could stay the night, but I decided I'd rather walk home alone at 4:30 am. I see him frequently, and</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, AC-shift, pressure, SA, VS impact</p>	

	<p>months later, I still feel my heartbeat increase and I get a little nauseous.</p>		
58	<p>When I studied abroad, my roommate was raped. We talked about what she was feeling and what steps she thought she needed to heal. Ultimately she decided to report it to the school. They asked for her statement and told her there would be a trial and she was allowed to bring me for support. When we got there, the boy was in the room but he was separated so we couldn't see him. The university had a board of teachers that would listen to the stories and decide what to do. My roommate was also appointed someone whose only purpose would be to defend her and support her, like a lawyer. She gave her statement again and answered their questions which were careful and polite, and then we left. Later that day the university told her the boy had been expelled, since every assault should be taken seriously. They said it would not be right to keep him at the school no matter the severity of the assault. Downtown University should be taking better care of us than the study abroad universities.</p>	<p>Did not involve DU students, but was witness by University student; power-institutional</p>	<p>Example of how other universities are taking care of SA allegations in comparison to University</p>

59	<p>I met an older guy at an event at Downtown University and we were talking as a friend. He invited me to his place, but I refused to go and then he started sending threatening messages. I wanted to tell someone, but I got scared. I went to his house and he offered me to smoke, drink and go to his bathtub to have sex with him. I didn't drink, smoke or ate anything and told him that I have never done any of those activities before. He started talking about what he would do to me in bed. He made me feel uncomfortable and started touching my private parts and I tried to run. He kept telling me that nobody would believe my story and nothing will happen to him even if I report him. I have never talked about this incident and it is very difficult for me. I want everyone to feel safe on campus.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, HA, SA, power-social, VS impact</p>	
60	<p>I had this problem with a boy. While I prefer not to get into the details, I shared what happened during O week and many people made it clear that he was stalking me (I was in denial because I've never dealt with that before) I reported confidentially to two different people. Through the network of "confidentiality" he found out and now I've had several incidences in which he makes comments about me to my face and one instance when shoved past me to get into an elevator. I was told he wouldn't hear about the complaint. While I have been very patient dealing with his actions against me so far, I shouldn't have to be. Confidential should be confidential.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, ST, did report, power-institutional, unaware</p>	

61	<p>I woke up in a puddle of my own blood at a group of friend's place. I couldn't see out of my eye and later found out my jaw was broken when my tooth came out. My clothing was stained with semen. I asked my friends what had occurred because I was in shock & disbelief that they could have been involved. There has been no resolve to the incident. I decided to leave Downtown University because the terror haunted me. After leaving I lost my scholarship and received a tuition bill for the unfinished quarter, despite the fact that the university knew about the circumstances. When I asked them to consider the situation the employee told me she, "didn't care about my personal life and I wasn't entitled to the money I owed." Being assaulted is not a part of my personal life, especially when it occurred on campus and hearing the school tell me I was acting entitled after completely changing the direction of my life was heartbreaking. The only thing I felt entitled to was my safety and that was not provided.</p>	<p>power-social, power-relational, masc perpetrator, power-institutional, VS impact</p>	
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62	<p>#Profstoo Things I was asked during my faculty interview here at Downtown University, mostly by a (future) colleague but allowed to happen over the course of three hours by my (future) Director. This is only limited to gender-baiting questions not also the race and class—based questions (also illegal) that they asked and/ or allowed: Are you bisexual? You look like Sophia Loren. Or wait, (insert female actress/ celebrity here). Did you get a nose job? Did you get a breast job? Have you had any surgeries, at all? (“I don't know, do colonoscopies count? We don't want to talk about this at dinner, do we?” They laugh, thinking it's for a “cleanse.” Sorry, no, it's because my genetics tell me I could get this type of cancer any given year! They refuse to believe me, after asking this question to begin with...) Do you want to go out to the back of this restaurant and have sex? Are you married? To a man? What does your husband do? How much does he make? Is he following you to this job? (yes) Are you sure he's willing to do that? (yes) Are you sure? (Yes. Would you ask this so many times of a male candidate with a female partner? “No, I guess not...”). Did he help you with your dissertation or translations for academic articles (He is not a professor...). Why do you tell your husband where you travel - is he afraid you'll have an affair? Speaking of your husband, how much did he pay for that wedding ring? What about your engagement ring? What is his line of work? You mean he only has his B.S. Do you think you married beneath yourself to not marry a professor? What's the worst thing your father did to you? Do you have any tattoos or piercings? No I mean where I can't</p>	<p>staff, power-institutional, GN perpetrator</p>	<p>example of people in dominant positions exercising power over someone with clear power differential</p>
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<p>see. Why are you wearing that shirt? Are you trying to show off your breasts? No really, what's the worst thing your father ever did to you? What breast size are you? Do you shave? Where do you shave I went to tech support and they helped me get past your password on the (personal) computer you brought for the interview. Do you want to explain your search history? Can I touch your hair? (Nope...) Will you be straightening your hair for this job? (Nope...) Are you "trans" What weight are you? What height are you? What size? Are you lying? (related, perhaps): Are you going to "deserve that dessert"? How much did you pay for that purse? Your jewelry? Glasses? What about your outfit? I don't think we can take seriously a candidate who didn't come wearing a suit tailored to them? Oh, what's a reasonable cost you say... hmm about \$300. (I was a graduate student...) Were you ever a "sugar baby?" What about S&M and polyamory? What can you explain about that? (Nothing to do with what I study, rhetoric and the Renaissance...) How attractive do you think you are? Ever gotten out of a speeding ticket? What about your "first time"? Tell me about your first time. Hey, how much do you remember from last night? (Then next morning).</p>		
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63	<p>Freshman year I got a bumble to meet people. I was excited and wanted to casually date. I met with a guy who said he went to Downtown University. We met up for coffee and it was fine but I wasn't interested. I told him after the date I had a good time but didn't want to continue. He started sending me awful threats telling me I'd get kicked out of the school because his dad worked there, that he'd kill me, he'd hurt me and my friends/family, and much much worse that I won't type out. I tried to resolve this, but the next thing I knew he was stalking me and waiting outside of Sturm for me. I tried to confront him and then next thing I know he was sexually assaulting me. He threatened me into thinking that my friends and family were hurt and would send me pictures of guns and knives and would scare me into seeing him. He sexually assaulted me for 2 months. I reported it to the University, but they said they couldn't do anything because he was already released from the university for sexually assaulting another student. He had lied to me and said he was gone from the university because of a rugby accident, when in reality he was kicked out I also found out the school had a no trespassing order on him, yet he was always on campus. When I brought this up to Downtown University, they didn't do anything about it. They issued a no trespassing order on this guy and couldn't even live up to that. They let rapists walk freely on campus and don't take victims seriously, even when the same guy raped multiple girls. The University's response to this was sickening, and they failed to keep their students safe even when they themselves filed an order against him.</p>	freshman, masc perpetrator, HA, ST, SA, power-social, power-institutional,	Example of institutional failure; not exactly a call to action, but the V/S confronts the person/entity with power (by calling DU out/their failures)
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64	<p>Last year I was hooking up with a guy who turned out to be extremely verbally abusive. We had a lot of consensual rough sex but even now I question how much of the violence during/after sex and foreplay were abuse as well. I never reported anything because I don't feel I have enough reason to, and I'm terrified of him finding out and knowing it was me. Now I can't help but feel a pit in my stomach when I read these posts and wonder if one of them is about him.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, DV, SA, power-relational, DNR, unaware, VS impact</p>	
65	<p>My story happened fall quarter 2018, and it took me more than a full year to recognize the severity of the situation. A boy I was not close to on my hall always used to invite my two close friends and I to his frat parties/pregames. We finally agreed to go to one of the pregames at his frat house and I believe I blacked around 10:30pm and I don't remember anything till 7:30am the next morning; everything I know about that night was told to me from a guy on my floor. Here is what I remember: I challenged the guy on my floor to go shot for shot with me and he tapped out first. After this a large group of guys living in the house, my friends, and other girls and I hung out for a while and talked. I specifically remember talking to the guy who later assaulted me and thinking he was nice. I know we had sex because I remember a flash of him naked but that's all. The next morning I had at least 3 texts from girls in my sorority asking if I was all right and being very worried about me. I remember getting these texts and wondering why they were freaking out but looking back, it makes more sense. Here is what I was told about that night from the guy on my floor: I apparently went out of</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, DFSA, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, call to action</p>	<p>other men tried to intervene but were unsuccessful, did not report; stopped short of confronting power</p>

<p>the house for a while to a bar with this guy, we were making out there, we came back to this frat house, at the frat house I fell down several flights of stairs, I was so incoherent it sounded like I was speaking Spanish, the guy at the time we had sex was sober, while he assaulted me 3 of the frat bothers were trying to get into his room to stop him because they knew how drunk I was and apparently after he raped me he slept on the couch outside his room all night while his friends were taking care of me giving me water and occasionally seeing if I was alive. Who knows what else happened to me in those 9 hours but that's all I got. I woke up that morning thinking I was in my bed but I did not recognize the wall and then I knew I was still at the frat house. My clothes were completely on, I got out of the bed and walked outside where the guy who assaulted and me and his three friends were all sitting there wide awake and talking. They guy who assaulted me refused to make eye contact with me as the others asked how I was doing. I left the house alone and after a year I know that his guy is a serious predator, his friends are fucks for not reporting him even though they knew he raped (I do recognize they tried to stop this situation and for that I respect them) and my two friends at the time were horrible people for leaving me somewhere and not caring at all. Always make sure your friends are okay and shoutout to the frats that are actually taking these posts seriously I appreciate it.</p>		
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66	<p>Hi so my freshman year I was really good friends with this one guy at the beginning. Fast forward a month or so and him and i and other people were casually drinking before going to bars. I didn't drink as much as him because i knew i was going home after the pregame. He was not that drunk at all for clarification. He walked me back home instead of going to bars. I offered to let him sleep in my dorm, while my roommate was asleep i might add. So we get back to my dorm and i say that he can sleep on the ground or we share a bed but i also said i trust him to the point that it'd be ok if we shared a bed. So we get in bed and I'm about to fall asleep but he presses up against me like males do and I'm like stop, no we're just friends. Also keep in mind my roommate is in the room, asleep. This goes on for awhile where we're slightly spooning thanks to the twin bed and he keeps trying to hook up with me and i just say no. Regardless of my constant request for him to stop he continues. Let's just say he's already in my pants and trying to go for it. I'm immobilized and just want this awkward moment to end. He's already been in me but my first concern is my roommate so i suggest we go to the bathroom for him to finish. We end the hookup there. I just wanted to get him out of my room. After i tell him I'm going to bed and he should leave. Weeks pass and i don't feel comfortable telling my friends. Finally one friend asks me about it and i tell her some details, and she asks, and i'll never forget "you know what that sounds like right?" I hadn't even realized what had happened. I was so used to being intimate with people and trusting them that i never thought some shitty person who didn't think</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, SA, power-relational, not taking a no, AC-shift, VS impact, call to action</p>	
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	<p>of my feelings, but only sex, would enter my life. I'm now much more weary of the boys i become emotionally intimate with, and i value talking with my friends about sex much more than before. Having a group of friends around you to help is amazing. I wish i went to a school that had better platforms for non consensual sex and where the consequences matched the circumstance. Downtown university needs to favor the victim. Even if it's a gray area. A gray consequence is better than no consequence.</p>		
67	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: call for participation in silent protest	none	
68	<p>When I was a freshman, there was this older [Sorority] girl who thought I was cute and started dancing with me during a party, we ended up kissing at the party and I was into it because I thought she was cute too. Later that night after we went to the bars I was very drunk and ended up back at mine, I started getting very uncomfortable with the questions she was asking me and the things she was doing while we were both naked in bed before sex but for some reason I did it. I didn't think about it until now, but just because I was drunk and she was some older sorority girl I felt like I should be doing things with her. We had sex and it was impossible for me to get her out of my room and had to make up a story about a friend and leave my form room and it was an extremely unfortunate situation</p>	<p>freshman, fem perpetrator, DFSA, unaware, power-social, masc VS</p>	<p>VS notes that social expectations prevent men from seeking help/understanding their experience as assault. Negative impact of power and dominance on group who holds power/dominance</p>

	<p>that a guy can get into and not know what to do because it isn't talked about enough.</p>		
69	<p>I dated a guy who goes to Downtown University for a little over a year. He was always extremely jealous and constantly accused me of cheating on him when I did nothing to make him not trust me. He demanded that I show him my texts with all of my friends and he tracked my location all of the time, and made me cut off several platonic relationships because he was so jealous. When he got drunk, he would scream in my face, and when I tried to diffuse the situation or even just walk away, he would become way more aggressive and I genuinely feared he would hurt me. He also knew that I am a survivor of sexual abuse and assault, and that I have been in intensive treatment for PTSD, yet he would constantly pressure me into having sex with him and when we didn't have sex, he would tell me he felt like I didn't care about him anymore. No matter how drunk I was, or how many times I turned him down, he would always end up coercing me into having very rough sex with him. I broke up with him at the end of September, and have struggled severely since then with panic attacks, flashbacks, and intrusive thoughts. I avoid many parts of campus for fear of seeing him. His fraternity brothers and friends who are in sororities are very hostile when they see me in public as well, and I know he must tell</p>	<p>power-relational, masc perpetrator, DV, SA, pressure, VS impact, call to action</p>	

	<p>them that I'm in the wrong, because he has never even begun to apologize. I strongly believe that frat culture enabled him to become the monster that he is today.</p> <p>[Fraternity] and honestly all of the other fraternities at Downtown University are terrible and breed the worst kinds of people. The administration needs to acknowledge the toxicity of frat culture and do something about it.</p>		
70	<p>Seeing the stories on this page brought back memories I tried to forget about. I was reluctant to share my story, but #metoo. I was only in my first couple quarters here at Downtown University. After a terrible breakup with a guy I lost my virginity to, I felt extremely lonely. I hadn't made many friends here at Downtown University yet, so I welcomed any friendships I could. Typically, I get along better with men so I do have a lot of male friendships. I thought this would be a friendship, nothing more. But I was wrong. After building an Insta friendship with this Downtown University student, I decided it was safe to hang out. We had gotten to know each other, and there was no mention of anything romantic/sexual whatsoever. One day, after class, he picks me up and we go get food. He offers to come see his apartment (which was really fancy, paid for by his rich parents of course). Before proceeding to enter the apartment, things took a shocking turn when he said he wanted to show me something. He pulls out a gun... an actual gun. I was in shock, wondering why he</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, force, SA, power-social, VS impact, DNR, masc perpetrator</p>	

	<p>wanted to make it clear to me he owned this weapon. We then went inside, because I felt obligated to after seeing such a powerful object at his hands. After he goes to the bathroom, he pulls down his pants and forces me (yes, forces me) to suck his penis. When I try to pull away, he just continues, grabbing my head, nearly suffocating me. I saw stars and all I could think was he had the gun at his fingertips just in case I dared to do anything. More happened after that, to the point I had bruises all over my body, including wrapped around my neck. I thought I was going to die that day and all I wanted to do was report it. However, he had told me that nobody would believe me and it wouldn't matter because he's rich. A year later, I saw him while I was working at the bookstore. My blood went cold, and I immediately had a panic attack. But I don't even think he remembered me. I was just another one of his victims. I regret not trying to report him, because I know I wasn't the first. And I couldn't have been the last...</p>		
71	<p>I went on a date with this guy just one time in Jan. 2017. We didn't do anything more than a Goodnight kiss, because I was worried it would be rude not to. But that wasn't the problem... in the Fall of the same year, he started texting and calling me constantly. Leaving voicemails at 3 am telling me how much in love with me he was and that he wanted to see me. He didn't really know me at all and I couldn't understand why he was doing that. The only time I would respond was to tell him I had a boyfriend and I asked him to stop calling me. He persisted, so I blocked his phone number. Instead of</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, ST, HA, VS impact, DNR, call to action</p>	

	<p>respecting my wishes to be left alone, he contacted me through any means he could find. I started to feel very intimidated and was terrified to see him on campus. I was also afraid he would find out where I lived and would go there and try something. I hardly left my room that quarter. I met with an HCC counselor, but they told me they could only do something if I gave his name. I didn't want to do that because I was worried about what he would do if he found out I reported him. This was stalking and harassment. It is not ok for someone to persistently try to contact/find you when you reject them. If anyone else has been through this, please know you are not alone.</p>		
72	<p>During fall quarter this year, I ended up getting pretty close to a guy on my floor. We were just friends, but I thought we got along well. One night, I thought I was just going over to his room to hang out, like I did almost every Friday. When I got to his room, he was already pretty trashed but that wasn't really that surprising to me. We're in college, so why not, right? A few of my friends were already there, so I decided to have a couple drinks along with them, and the next thing I know, he had his hands around my throat and he was choking me. I couldn't breathe at all, and it was absolutely terrifying. I tried to fight him off but I couldn't get him to stop. He's taller than I am, and a lot more muscular than I was at the time, so I wasn't in a very powerful position then. Eventually he let go, but in those moments I genuinely thought he was trying to kill me and that he was going to succeed. I thought I was going to die in front of all of my friends, and that nobody would</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, SA, VS impact, DNR</p>	<p>not an explicit act of sexualized violence, but demonstrates power held (and comfortably exercised) by masc perpetrators - and the lack of action taken to confront it</p>

<p>even notice until it was too late. I left his room in full panic that night after he let me go and I work up the next morning with bruises on my neck. A few weeks before the choking happened, he had given me some laced weed that made me so sick I thought I was dying. I couldn't stop puking for almost three days, to the point that even plain water was too much. After I finally recovered from that, I for some reason determined that it was probably a fluke and he didn't mean it and I decided that it was okay for me to trust him again. I guess I was wrong. Because of these things, I had to move off of my floor and away from all of the friends I had made there. As a matter of fact, these two instances have made me decide to leave Downtown University after spring quarter this year, mostly because I see him every single day on campus and every time I see him, it feels like I'm reliving the terror of those nights. Pursuing charges against him seemed too intimidating for me at the time, but now I'm reconsidering. I just think it might be too late.</p>		
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73	<p>By January of my Freshman year at Downtown University, I was seeing this one guy pretty regularly (this guy would later go on to be the president of his fraternity). One night, I went to a party at his frat with a bunch of my friends. We were all drinking (from huge coolers of jungle juice) and having a good time for most of the night but at one point I was starting to get noticeably drunk and was separated from my friends. I went upstairs to hang out with the guy I had been seeing and a bunch of people in someone's room at the frat. Someone I knew handed me a Gatorade bottle with a drink in it. I took a relatively large drink and that was pretty much the last thing I remember from that night. A few hours later I became briefly aware that I was having sex with someone in the bathroom at the frat, and even remember hearing other people walk into the bathroom while we were there. I remember I kept trying to look in the mirror and behind me to see who it was but was so drunk or drugged that I couldn't tell who it was. I eventually made my way back to my dorm (don't remember doing so) and passed out in the lobby. Rather than sending me to detox when they found me the RAs at the front desk called an ambulance because I wasn't responding and my nose was bleeding. I woke up in the hospital, with my entire body bruised and hurting. I spent the next several weeks trying to put pieces together without any help or information from the guy I had been seeing who was at the party. I never had my blood tested at the hospital for anything other than alcohol content because while blacked out I had refused to tell the police or doctors any information about where I had been drinking</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, power-social, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA, unaware,</p>	<p>quote about protecting relationships/masc person instead of reporting</p>
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	<p>or who I was with. When I was put on probation by the school at the time I didn't give them any information about what had happened and life about the situation because I was more concerned with protecting the guy I had been seeing and hadn't realized what had happened to me. It took me several years before I realized that it was entirely possible that I had been drugged that night, and that I had been raped, and will ever know who did it to me.</p>		
74	<p>In the first month of my first year at Downtown University, I was going to a party with a few of my friends and other people on my floor. On our way to the party, I was talking to friends of this dude who lived on my floor. We were all kind of joking around and then at one point this friends asked me if I was into this guy at all, which I wasn't so I just laughed and told them that, and didn't think anything of the question. I was completely unattracted to this guy and would have never imagined him as a sexual partner. Later on after the party we were all drinking in someone's dorm I was already pretty drunk by the time we got to the dorms and ended up taking a few shots or more at that point. The last thing I remember clearly from that night was face timing my best friend at home in the bathroom on the floor that we had been drinking on. It was the first time I had ever completely blacked out. I snapped back into</p>	<p>freshman, DFSA, AC-unable to confirm, not taking a no, unaware, DNR, VS impact</p>	

<p>awareness briefly much later that night in the middle of sex with the guy whose friends had been asking me about him. I was so drunk I couldn't respond to the situation, and all I remember was laying motionless on my stomach and telling him to stop several times because he was hurting me. He didn't stop, and I blacked out for the rest of the night. In the morning I woke up and crawled out of his bed directly into the shower on our floor. I remember crying in the shower because I felt so gross and had no idea how I ended up with him. I stopped talking to him after that night and never talked to him about that night. It took me several years to realize and admit to myself that I had been raped. Until then I thought it was my fault for drinking too much or pushed it so far out of my mind that I couldn't admit to myself what had been done to me. He left the University after my first year, and by the time I realized what had happened to me I felt and still feel it is too late to take any action against him, because of fallback I have seen when my friends and other women try to report similar situations.</p>		
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75	<p>An excerpt from my interview taken by Downtown University’s Title IX investigator, “She remembered that when she woke up on Thursday, May 9th, she was naked, and her body hurt. She didn’t have any clothing on. She just remembered that her body hurt really badly. She doesn’t remember anything that happened in the hotel room. The only thing that she vaguely remembers is that he used his teeth. He used his teeth on her vagina. She isn’t sure how hard he bit her because she only vaguely remembered it. She just remembers that her vagina hurt, and waking up naked, that’s all. She remembers that for two or three days she was in a lot of pain. She also had general muscle soreness all over her body; he body felt sore and stiff. Everything was off that night...” I could go into further detail about how much alcohol I drank, how my friends were all interviewed about my sexual preferences and drinking habits. I could go into detail about everything that happened from May 8th, but I’ve already relived it. Over and over again. I did report it. I reported my story to Title IX, and it took them 7 months and two investigators to determine “It is less likely than so that Respondent violated the University’s Policy prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and gender-based violence by engaging in Prohibited Conduct: Non-Consensual Penetration...” I’ve spent hours screaming and crying in my room. I’ve been unable to sleep at night due to panic attacks where I’m convinced he’s there. I hurt myself, and I even tried to kill myself at one point. I thought about leaving the school because my education wasn’t worth the pain I carried with my every day; pain that I still carry. I’ve lost</p>	<p>DFSA, power-institutional, VS impact</p>	<p>names how University’s process affected VS, and the power the school has; mirrors my own outcome</p>
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	<p>friends, had my reputation ruined, and was treated as less than human. My abuser wasn't the only one who took away my voice. My school did, too.</p>		
76	<p>I went to [fraternity] formal with this guy I had been seeing for a while. I was excited because we got to stay in our room, so I thought hooking up would be really fun. However, when we were there, he got so angry at me for flirting with another guy and said we had to have sex to prove I wanted to be there with him. While we were having sex, he hit me across the face so hard I started crying. We had had rough sex before, but he had never actually hurt me like that. I was too scared to do anything because he was already so angry at me.</p>	<p>power-social, power-relational, masc perpetrator, DV, SA, VS impact</p>	

77	<p>I have been a professor at Downtown University for 15 years. When I joined the Downtown University faculty I volunteered and completed a very intensive program to be a court advocate for any student, staff, or faculty member who had been sexually assaulted. It was a brand new program at Downtown University and we had virtually zero support from upper administration-it was crazy...they did not want this program activated. At that time, Downtown University wouldn't even get us a cell phone for folks on call... (we had someone on call 24hrs a day, 7 days a week). We had to work with ONE outdated, shitty pager for three years. Working with campus safety was a total joke – they made fun of us and also undermined our efforts in some very serious ways. They refused to coordinate with us or work with us. They would not call Denver police when they should have. They were-let's say...contrary (oh so many stories...). We complained. Nothing ever happened... During those years, I spent numerous nights in the hospital with Downtown University students while they underwent rape kits – these often took around 9 hours (in my experience, in this capacity, I overwhelmingly engaged with students who had been drugged and raped at frat parties). This work was extremely taxing and time consuming, but work I cared passionately about. I opted to do this work rather than other forms of University service work. As a trained court advocate, I represented Downtown University in the community, in the hospitals, at the DA's office, and in the courts. None of this mattered until I was up for tenure. When I went through my tenure process, I was told this advocacy work didn't</p>	Employee, HA, power-institutional	faculty calls out University maintenance of harmful expressions of power
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<p>count as service work for the university – that it didn't matter. This was confirmed by upper administration. I was told to remove mention of this work from my tenure file... Service work is a big piece of the tenure process (!!!). I devoted many hours of my life to this work for several years and the university refused to acknowledge it as legitimate. On paper, I looked like I had done virtually no service work. A member of my tenure committee claimed to have called my court advocacy supervisor. She said that my supervisor said what I did was “no big deal” and that I was exaggerating... (I later learned from my supervisor that this is not what happened). Again I was told I was not allowed to mention my Downtown University student advocacy work in my tenure file. I did get tenure, but this experience told me (and confirmed) everything I knew about Downtown University's approach to sexual violence. During this time a new male colleague was hired. He made me (and others) extremely... uncomfortable and in his first quarter already had complaints about stalking/sexually harassing two students. A member of my tenure committee said I should take this guy out for drinks and, his words, “make nice.” When I explained I was uncomfortable doing so he reminded me that I was under consideration for tenure. It felt like a weird threat. As a result of this pressure, I met this problematic colleague for a drink. I left an hour later when he told me he knew I wanted to be fucked like I was being raped and then demanded I got to his apartment. When I told my Chair and upper administration about this they ignored it. This predatory colleague was allowed to continue teaching, all while</p>		
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	<p>making lewd comments to female professors and students, and also sexually harassing students (even after he was detained by Denver police for sexual harassment off campus). Eventually he was denied tenure for bullshit reasons that never mentioned or brought up the NUMEROUS complaints about his sexual misconduct. He went on the job market and was hired at another similar institution.</p>		
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78	<p>In October of 2018 I went to a party and had a little too much to drink. I walked home alone because the party was close by campus. On my way home a man forced himself against me and put his hand over my mouth. He backed me against an apartment building and pulled down my pants...He raped me and left me alone in the dark. I was too afraid and embarrassed to call the police so I got the courage to head back up to my dorm... I ended up getting pregnant from that incident. I got an abortion and felt an intense amount of shame from the incident and from the decision to get an abortion... I couldn't live with it anymore. In February I ended up attempting suicide. I became distant from all my friends and became so alone. I felt like I couldn't talk to anyone. I got more deeply depressed and attempted suicide again in April. Downtown University kicked me out without even asking why I was in such a bad spot... If anyone asked, or wanted to listen, I would have opened up and maybe things would have been different to have prevented either attempt. I eventually opened up to a therapist and resource outside of Downtown University that really helped. I felt heard and worked through my shame. Downtown University accepted me back the next fall.</p> <p>There is hope</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, SA, DNR, VS impact, power-institutional, call to action</p>	
79	<p>I caught a man masturbating in the library not once, not twice, but three times. The third time is when I contacted campus safety immediately, as they had told me to do. The man then left, and campus safety said they couldn't do anything... DPD asked if I wanted to press charges and I said no because I was in finals week at the time. I asked campus safety</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, did report, power-institutional, call to action, HA</p>	

	<p>to notify people about this guy, as it happened more than once on campus, and the man was very recognizable; older white man with dreads all the way down his back... nobody did anything. We get notifications about streakers on campus, but not a repeat public masturbator in our library. I was just disappointed at the lack of action by the school for the safety of other students.</p>		
80	<p>I have been at Downtown University for over 10 years as a student and a staff members. At the coor's fitness center there is an older male member that based on this description hundreds of past and current employees and patrons know exactly who I am talking about... He is sexually inappropriate verbally and physically towards female patrons. There was a time I witnessed him follow a female patron around to four different locations in the gym, on one such occasion standing so close to her with his groin area over her had as she attempted to do flys on a bench. I know two women who refuse to work out at Coors because they do not wish to see this man ever again. One is paying for a gym membership off campus because of her encounters with this man. Over the years he has (that I am aware of) over 15 complaints against him for such behavior. I have personally tried to file complaints against this individual. As I have come to understand because this individual knows two quite powerful upper administration persons, the complaints disappear from our computer systems. This man has also made several racist comments toward black and hispanic coworkers at our facility One personal experience I had with this man was that he brought a gun on to our</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, HA, power-social, power-institutional</p>	<p>instance of University staff using power to affect institution and social impact</p>

	<p>campus. He had a revolver sitting in a holster on one of the benches in the Men's Gold locker room. Myself and a supervisor confronted him and informed him this was a gun free campus. He very aggressively and angrily complained about his second amendment rights and refused to take the gun back to his vehicle and off campus. This man is a predator and is using our gym as a hunting ground for young women.</p>		
81	<p>My entire class watched a fellow student physically sexually harass a woman IN CLASS in front of the professor. 1 week later he was back in class, forcing our classmate to literally run out of the room in distress. When we all protested his return to campus the administration said "our hands are tied" and "we hoped you all could forgive him." We had to revolt as an entire cohort and threaten to quit the program before they removed him from class. This happened only 4 months ago in the Fall 2019.</p>	<p>HA, power-institutional, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	
82	<p>My first year of law school I was stalked and harassed by one of my classmates. He would make comments about my clothes, my body, and my classmates... he would follow me to my car and make it so I couldn't leave. Downtown University did nothing. The Title IX office never filed a complaint even though I asked for it. Then they told me it was all in my head.</p>	<p>ST, HA, masc perpetrator, power-institutional</p>	

83	<p>I was abroad when this happened. I was taking care of a guy who happened to be drunk. I was walking to his motel when he stopped acting drunk and dragged me inside. I do not remember what happened from when I was forced into the room to when I was walking back to my campus abroad. I told my program about the assault and they got me the resources I need. They also told Downtown University... they didn't even bother reaching out. They only reached out once. But then after that, never again... I was told that I would get another email after I return from abroad for a check in. None of that. Downtown University seriously needs to put their students as a priority even if they are abroad.</p>	<p>force, SA, masc perpetrator, power-institutional, call to action</p>	<p>happened abroad, example of another institution's response vs. DU's</p>
84	<p>It was October 2015. The first time was absolutely concensual. It was a fling that wasn't supposed to happen more than once - yes, even women can enjoy the occasional one-night-stand. But then a week later, you sought me out at a party... You encouraged my friends to get me to drink more, then grabbed me when my friends weren't looking. You dragged me back to your dorm. You took everything away from me. I would try to bring it up with my friends, but they would brush it off as just another hookup... I hid it for years. I didn't understand why I froze when with other sexual partners- they would be over me and I would feel absolute terror and fear. I thought that was how it was supposed to feel - scary. Submissive. Passive. Numb... It wasn't until I sat across from you in a lecture hall during our senior year, when I was forced to look you in the eyes, that I allowed myself to be vulnerable and realize</p>	<p>GN perpetrator, DFSA, force, DNR, unaware, VS impact</p>	

	<p>that I had been sexually assaulted by you. I have worked tirelessly to feel control of my body again - there is hope.</p>		
85	<p>When I was a freshman, I went to a date party at a fraternity. I went with a boy whom I trusted, and had a massive crush on. I only had two drinks at the party, both of which came from freshly opened bottles. Three or four neighbors of the hosts of the party showed up... they were probably in their mid-twenties and everyone thought they were creepy and wanted them to leave. My date left me for only 5 minutes that night, and while I waited for him to finish his conversation I set my drink down on a table. My date came back and we had a great time... I was so happy to finally go on this "date" with him and thought nothing could ruin how excited I was. Next thing I know I'm at the bar and I ran out to the back alley and stumbling around, thankfully a girl I knew got me an uber back to [residence hall]... I have almost no recollection of campus security and paramedics questioning me in my room. I was take to the hospital, and was told I was roofied. I thought my date would hate me, but instead he helped me contact the president of his frat... the President was, surprisingly, and thankfully beyond helpful. He told me tht two other people were also roofied, and that it was the creepy neighbors who did it. When I told Downtown University, they told me I needed more "proof" to do something as I had thrown away</p>	<p>attempted DFSA. power-institutional, VS impact</p>	<p>positive impact of being supported/believed</p>

	<p>my papers from the hospital... because they made me think of that terrible night. I also STILL got violation of alcohol misuse on my record. I don't know what was planned to do to me, and that still scares me to this day. I neighbors have since left their home and I was unable to get the school to look into this instance in the slightest... Thank goodness my date was so kind, and that I had other male allies who believed me and wanted to help. This is so unfortunately rare, and I am so lucky that I was not assaulted. I still get scared in crowds, and can never go back to the place I was drugged. Sending love to those who have also experienced similar situations.</p>		
86	<p>Went out to a bar by the University for drinks with my buddies. We were celebrating and I ended up getting very drunk and blacked out. I don't remember much except for blips of standing at the bar and then waking up completely naked in this girls bed... I asked her if we had sex the next morning and she said yes, I don't remember it happening at all. I tried to talk to my friends about it and they laughed it off and talked about how lucky I was to hook up with her. I look back on that night and know I was raped but am too ashamed to say anything because I'm a guy and the stigma that comes with.</p>	<p>fem perpetrator, DFSA, AC- unable to confirm, power-social, VS impact, masc VS</p>	<p>effect of masculinity on VS</p>
87	<p>He and I went on a date. He knew I was nervous as I had just gotten out of a less than stellar relationship. He made me feel okay. We went back to his place and talked some more. I was warming up to him, hell I was attracted to him too. We started kissing... it evolved and soon we were having sex. It was consensual so far. Then he was getting really</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, SA, AC-shift, not taking a no</p>	

	<p>rough. He as hurting me and I told him I wanted to stop. He said nothing. I told him again and again until he put his hand over my mouth and told me that I needed to work on my pain tolerance. I prayed to god it would end. When it did he went back to the same funny guy I was talking to earlier in the night. We never spoke again. He probably forgot about the whole thing. I wish I could too.</p>		
88	<p>It was my first quarter at Downtown University and I had talked to the guy before we had even gotten to school and kinda was into him. When we got to school he unadded me and when I saw him the first couple weeks he acted like he didn't even know me. One night at the bar he came up to me and we hu [hooked up] in the bathroom and it was all consensual. Flash forward a couple weeks after I saw him at the same bar and he asked me to come to his dorm because his roommate was out of town. I said yes, and when we got in the uber he had already slipped his hand up my dress and I was wildly not ok with it. I tried to push his hand away but I'm small and he had a tight grip of my upper thigh. We got to his dorm and he started to undress me and we had sex and at this point I felt defenseless. He told me to call him certain names and kept calling me "his slut" and a "bitch". He even made me call myself those names. I just wanted it to be over and to go home but I felt numb. He asked if he could do things I was uncomfortable with and when I said no he just persisted and eventually gave up and let him. When it was over he used the bathroom and I just lay there not able to speak or even move. I felt so hurt and taken advantage of. When he came back I put my clothes on and left and</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, AC-shift, not taking a no, SA, pressure, call to action, masc perpetrator</p>	<p>VS address bystanders to intervene, and makes comment that SA is an unfortunate norm in society - rather than confronting society to end it in the first place, like it's just an eventuality. Thats how much of an engrained norm it is.</p>

	<p>immediately started sobbing in the elevator. I called my friends and they came to my side. The support I received from them was amazing and I'm proud to have them as friends. Unfortunately we live in a society where this happens, but it does. Always ask your friends if they're ok to go home with someone and make sure you always check in with them.</p>		
89	<p>Sophomore year I met this guy on tinder and he seemed like a really great guy. I went over to his place to hang out, and as soon as we got into his dorm he started aggressively kissing me and pushed me onto his bed. I told him that I wanted to take it slower but he ripped my pants off and said "you don't want that baby". He started having sex with me and when I cried out in pain he flipped me over and pushed my head into a pillow while he violated me. Afterwards, he got mad that I got blood all over his sheets and told me to leave. I could barely walk, my body screamed in pain and my vagina bled for a week after. I felt like it was my fault for going over there in the first place so I justified it to myself and didn't report it. It still haunts me to this day. Rape is never justifiable.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift, not taking a no, SA, unaware, DNR, VS impact, call to action</p>	

90	<p>When I was a sophomore I took my friend back to his house one night because he was too drunk. His roommate felt bad and didn't want me to walk all the way home that late at night and told me I could spend the night and sleep in his room. I didn't think anything of it and thought he was so nice for helping me out. So I followed him into his room. While we were laying down he started touching me and we started having sex. I never said no or stopped him but I hated it. I just wanted it to be over because I didn't want to walk all the way home at 3 am. I don't even know what his name was. The minute the sun came up I ran back to my dorm. I felt off about it but just told my friends I hooked up with someone and it was fine. I don't know if I was raped or if that is rape but now I can't enjoy sex. I get so much anxiety whenever I'm alone with a guy when I'm drunk or if he's drunk. One time I saw the guy out and he acted like he didn't even know who I was. The person who made me feel so helpless and confused gets to act like he never even did anything. I don't feel comfortable in my own body and I feel like I can't tell anyone my situation because it happened so long ago. And would people even believe me if I told them now?</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, AC-shift, SA. unaware, VS impact</p>	
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91	<p>I had gone on a couple dates with this guy and nothing intimate or serious had happened yet. He invited me to a party at his house and I went. It was really chill for a while and he made me a few drinks and I got really drunk. He brought me to his bedroom towards the end of the night and we started making out, this was consensual but I insisted time and time again that I didn't want to have sex yet and I wanted to wait. He kept trying to put his hands down my pants and I moved his hands and kept telling him that I didn't want to have sex yet he kept pushing and tried to convince me to, I eventually gave up on fighting him. He pulled down my shorts and flipped me onto my stomach. I cried in silence because I felt like I couldn't do anything to stop what was happening. I tried to leave early in the morning while he was still asleep and without him noticing but he woke up and drove me home. I just wanted to forget about it and never see him again. Later that weekend, wanting to forget about the incident, I got blackout drunk and had a panic attack. I got written up and explained my situation during my meeting with student conduct people. I had to have another meeting with them to discuss my outcomes, I had to talk about it time and time again just after it had happened with people I didn't know... At the end of the day I only received one outcome which was some psych evaluation. I just felt so terrible after having to tell strangers again and again what happened just so I wouldn't get probation, or other consequences.</p>	<p>SA, masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift. not taking a no, VS impact, power-institutional</p>	
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92	<p>Freshman year, I abandoned all of my self-love & worth into a psychopath... one with protection from his mother as a Downtown University faculty member and two brothers as alumni, one even working here as well. A boy who not only would manipulate me into abusive fantasies but who also confided into me his homicidal tendencies... how he would hurt other people, who he would hurt. As the physical abuse furthered beyond seemingly sexual release until black eyes convinced me that I was safer with him than without... he even pushed me down in the middle of the street and chased me until one of our friends (who campus safety informed me was sexually abuse by him during our relationship) stopped him from pursuing me in is rage. Once he started fighting random strangers after to going to bars alone and really losing himself to addiction. I knew that not only did I need to leave school for my own safety but that both campus safety and the Denver police needed to be aware of this danger. I showed them screenshots of his direct threats at people as well as intentions of homicidal behavior; photo evidence of the physical abuse; brought in a number of witnesses, but not as many as the people who had already reported him prior to my illumination of his behavior. Even with Downtown University's private investigator on board, he remained on campus well after having been excused. Two weeks after I left for home, he broke into my old residence hall and used a fire extinguisher from the building to shoot up my specific floor, targeting my best friends and roommates sending me textual evidence after that he was aiming for them. After all of this, no repercussions</p>	<p>freshman, DV, SA, power-social, power-institutional, VS impact</p>	
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ensued. One can only imagine the power that a staff member of the athletics department maintains in protecting not only their own but the school itself. Flash forward years later, I am isolated from the Downtown University community in the mess of {name removed} that I got involved in, both out of his social manipulations as well as genuine fear on my end. He spread rumors, coerced some of my closest friends (sometimes sexually), even sent another girl from our class back into mental health rehab after they got together despite his attack on [residence hall] 6th floor. He even tried to come back as a student. His mother conducted the case so slyly that he almost made it into the system until the school... had to reach out to my roommate & I to inform us of his potential return. When he was fortunately denied a return as a student, he applied to work under his mother at the fitness center. I still find myself calling campus security (specifically the private investigator) to report his presence on campus every time, which has been multiple times just walking down the sidewalk, one time even antagonizing my friend from his car as he drove by. They claim they cannot do anything about it... very recently, two male campus safety officers violated my space by going through my panty drawer & room with flashlights (as my roommate testified) like an FBI raid in response to a suicidal ideation tip to my room, which I was not present in. The case reads that they confiscated my candles and paraphernalia by simply entering the room and seeing it in plain sight. Even after informing the student conduct administrator of their mishandling of protocol and lying on their report (which is proven in my

<p>roommates testimony!), I was actually condoned with four CONSEQUENCES from the school... none of which pertaining to my suicidal ideation or mental health which the case even began with, stemming from PTSD I obtained on the campus under their watch. Part of the recent report claimed that campus safety had run ins with me in the past; this portion of the file failed to mention that these were pertaining to my abuser... considering that one of my friends' fathers has stepped down as the head of campus safety (despite knowingly sacrificing practically free tuition for his daughter) due to his uncomfortability in the handling of sexual assault cases on campus, one can only assume where our tuition money truly goes when administration claims to protect its students: not in the resource of justice but rather the wallets of those protecting the institution paying them to do so.</p>		
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93	<p>I think it's really hard to recognize sexual assault when you're in a relationship with someone you love. Freshman year I had my first serious boyfriend. He as older, and we dated for about a year. After about 8 months, he became pretty verbally abusive and controlling... when he was drunk but I believed his excuses and apologies and let it slide. Around this same time, there were at least two times where I got too drunk, fell asleep in his bed and woke up to his dick pushing up against me or inside of me already. When I reacted negatively, he either told me to calm down because he wouldn't take long or manipulated me into feeling bad about calling him out, even crying one time. I didn't even realize at the time that this was rape, and it took until we broke up to realize how much he took advantage of me. It took me almost another year after we broke up for me to trust any guy or be able to be sexually intimate with anyone.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, AC-unable to confirm, SA, unaware, VS impact</p>	
94	<p>In fall of 2019 I asked the head commander of security to help us because we noticed one of our classmates was cornering people, following them, getting them very drunk, offering rides but not taking them home. We knew someone was going to get hurt... the Commander said he called this man and interviewed him, and his behavior made sense. I never trusted Downtown University again after that. Title IX called us a liar, and the police chief said the behavior made sense. It felt like no one cared.</p>	<p>HA, power-institutional, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	<p>direct connection between institutional action and VS impact</p>
95	<p>My boyfriend told me I thought I was too cool. He told me I had to stay beautiful for him. He asked me to give him head, and I said no. He said he would fuck me instead. I said</p>	<p>power-relational, masc perpetrator,</p>	

	no. He got on top of me... I tried to kick him off with my legs. He grabbed them, pried them open, ripped off my underwear, and that was the first of many times I'd be humiliated and dehumanized for saying no.	DV, SA, not taking a no	
96	My "friend" left me in this house with a guy I had just met. I was drunk. He carried me to the basement. I said no. He didn't care.	masc perpetrator, DFSA, force, not taking a no	
97	I was in an abusive relationship with another downtown university student and repeatedly raped, assaulted, harassed, and threatened by him. I reported to campo but was afraid to name him. Finally, I reported to DPD... He'd graduated but was charged and banned from campus. When subpoenaed for my student conduct records, Downtown University declined to object, declined to protect a victim's privacy... Downtown University had the recorded assault and still was willing to give him access to my records.	DV, SA, power-relational, masc perpetrator, did report, institutional power	

98	<p>My roommate and I were assaulted off campus in our own apartment by a non Downtown University student. We lived right next to Vista, so even though it was off campus, it still was basically on campus. The man that assaulted us was arrested on the scene. I called campus safety 2 hours after it had happened, while still at the hospital, because Denver Police told me to tell them what had happened and I really wanted other Downtown University students to be aware of locking their doors and windows, because he got in because we left the door unlocked. I called them and they told me to give my story, and I gave it in pretty graphic detail, as well as my police report #. They told me since the case was "resolved" and he was caught, they couldn't do much about it. I thought it was important to tell other Downtown University students to lock their doors. I never thought I wasn't safe inside my own apartment. They said they would call me back and let me know. It took 5 days, until they eventually called me back, this time it was an actual campus safety officer. He went on to tell me that they were trying to get approval to release something about it. He also went on to tell me that this didn't surprise him as there had been 2 shootings at the gas station across the street and numerous sexual assaults in the area in the past few months. I told him to let me know if they get approval. A few days later, a girl I had been staying with told me that campus safety released an email about me. I didn't get the email because they took me off the list. It listed in incredibly graphic detail about what happened to me and my roommate. I never approved for this email to go out, no one ever called me, and I never</p>	SA, masc perpetrator, did report, power-institutional, VS impact	
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	<p>thought they would release all the graphic details about my assault. I can't help but feeling like it's my fault for giving them that much detail in the first place. I just wanted Downtown University students to remember to lock their doors and windows. Now, I don't even read campus safety emails because they are all so graphic and triggering to me. I'm sure that other students feel the same. CAPE has been amazing to me, they have been the only reason I have gotten through all of this.</p>		
99	<p>He and I were completely sober. He knew I wasn't in a good mood at the time so we were hanging out on the couch then suddenly he's on top of me, pinning my hands down with one hand. I asked him what he's doing so he whispers in my ear... "making you feel better, baby, just how you want me to" but I never wanted him to. He started fingering me but all I kept repeatedly saying was "no no no no". I tried to turn my body away but he was too heavy. I got one of my hands out from his grasp then pulled his finger out but he told me to "stop" and put it back in and continued. I tried to sit up but his whole body weigh was basically on me now. I remember it from time to time. This was a guy I dated for 3 years... It doesn't matter how long you've known a person. A "no" still means no.</p>	<p>SA, masc perpetrator, AC-shift, not taking a no, VS impact, power-relational, call to action</p>	

100	<p>I am a current University staff member. I am also a two-time alumna, with my bachelor's and master's degrees from Downtown University. And, I'm a three-time survivor of sexual assault on campus. Here we are, 16 years later, and I am horrified to read that the same damn shit is still happening, but so grateful for this platform. I'm holding space for you all, fellow survivors... Story 1 of 3: I worked with this person very closely in a Greek Life leadership position. I considered him a trusted friend. He came over to my on-campus apartment to "hang out". I dug out my journal from 2004 (junior year). Here is what I wrote about that night: You push me further, and I say no. But there's reluctance in my voice and you smile your sweet, sly smile and I am completely encompassed by the charm that pours out of your partially parted lips. An art you've practiced to perfection, but it feels like genuine infatuation to me, and I'm caught. My mind screams no, it's too fast, it's not right, but my body works ever in favor of the goal your charm is working to accomplish. Mind and body in complete opposition. I shut off all reason and allow you to take control. A tear slides down my face and what my body craves tears me up inside. You push me harder and when it hurts I cry out for you to stop but it's too late. You captured my power and it's your game now. Entirely beyond the person you woo'd and sang acoustic Coldplay to and the neck you kissed so softly and the ear you whispered sweet flattery into, all mesh into one sole object, a receptacle for your pleasure, no more. And when the eyes shed salty drops of disapproval and the voice utters sounds and words nobody experiencing enjoyment would emit, you cover my mouth</p>	Employee, masc perpetrator, SA, power-social, power-relational force, pressure. not taking a no, no idea	
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	<p>and proceed as you planned to all along, without a care in the world how much force it takes to accomplish your goal. And by the time the bruises on my wrists turn blue and the bite marks on my breasts swell and fully form, the alcohol has worn off and I wonder with an emotional distance from my intellect how I could have ended up in this place when I set out with a friend I trusted so innocently. And how desperately I wanted to feel loved and how desperately you wanted me to drink your gin & tonic. And how your sweet voice sounded with that guitar and how much my body liked your passionate kisses, but how wrong it felt to have your incredibly bulky muscles holding me down while you forced yourself on top of me and shushed my hesitation. And when you ripped my clothes I cried in horror and froze in amazement that this gentle man would ignore a sweet petite woman's pain for the benit of his pleasure, and had he not been a virgin he would have taken his pointers learned from his pornography collection to a level far worse than the degredation cause by forcing the focal point of his pleasure into my mouth, holding my arms so tightly the bruises in the perfectly distinguishable shape of masculine fingers lasted for a week and when I see you the next day working out at the Ritchie Center, you act a if it were all a game and think no wrong done on your part sine, after all, we're friends.</p>		
101	<p>I already submitted my assault story. What I didn't share was that when I contacted cape about resources, they accidentally sent me another person's case. The person apologized profusely and told me to delete it, but that</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-institutional, power-</p>	<p>naming connection between power and money and institutional catering to money</p>

	<p>didn't change the fact the whole process no longer felt confidential... I knew someone else's personal history and I didn't want something personal shared to other people. the man that raped me had money, and Downtown University needs to know that money doesn't equal power or an exception to no meaning no.</p>	<p>social, call to action</p>	
<p>102</p>	<p>It was the fall quarter of my sophomore year at DU. I had gone to a bar with my roommate, and had joked that it been so long that I had been with a guy I would go home with someone that night. I wish I hadn't. At the bar, we started talking to this guy who was a senior, and he and I had gotten quite along. At some point, some of my guy friends from a frat came and I hung out with them for a while. I asked them about this one guy I was talking to (the same one), and they said he seemed strange to them. I should have listened to them. The guy at the bar asked if I wanted to go home with him, and I accepted. We got to his place, and he had whiskey dick, and started fingering me so hard I had to push him back and yell at him to stop because it hurt so much. He then went into the bathroom, and I waited for him, still naked under the blankets. A minute later, two of his friends came into the room telling me I have to leave in 5 minutes "or else". I asked them to leave so I could get dressed but they refused, insisting that I dressed in front of them, which I was NOT going to do. At the third point of asking, I'd had enough and yelled at them to "get the fuck out so can get my shit on and leave this fucking place." They did, and I got my clothes and things together and left, rejecting their offer to get me an</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, SA, DNR, VS impact</p>	

	<p>Uber, not wanting to spend another second with them. At that time, I'm very glad to have found my voice, making as much sound as possible saved me. Learning what my voice meant to me saved me. I went home laughing about it all, then ended up crying and calling my parents and roommate, who were so helpful. I didn't report it because I thought my use of alcohol would get in the way. It shouldn't have. Since that October day, I've been too nervous to be with another man (even though I wish I could have and still could have) and have developed social anxiety and wish that night could have been a terrible dream.</p>		
103	<p>I was having consensual sex with a guy that I had taken home from the bars when he then start to try and have anal sex with me. When I told him to stop, he ignored me and held me down and kept doing it. I bled for a couple of days and it took a while for me to realize what happened was sexual assault. Just because I consented to sex doesn't mean I consented to all sex.</p>	<p>AC-shift, masc perpetrator, SA, force, not taking a no, call to action</p>	<p>Names AC-shift - use own words in theme?</p>
104	<p>He followed me home from the bar one night. I thought he seemed cool - but I didn't want to sleep with him. The fact that he was belligerently drunk didn't help the situation. He ended up holding my head down while I performed oral sex on him. I couldn't stop gagging because I didn't want to do it, but he kept telling me keep going and I didn't know how to say no. I was a freshman then, and it took me two years to realize what happened to me was even a sexual assault. He was a well-liked athlete and several years older then I was, and I was afraid of the social repercussions of reporting. Looking back now</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, SA, force, not taking a no, freshman, power-social, DNR, VS impact, call to action</p>	<p>names respect and popularity as social power forces that influence reporting and justice</p>

	2 years later I wish I had. Every time he walked by me on campus he pretended I didn't exist but I felt sick to my stomach just looking at him. I want everyone to know that you aren't alone, and that no matter how respected or popular your assailant is you deserve justice and to be at peace.		
105	My neighbor sexually assaulted me while I was passed out after a night of drinking in my own room. He walked into my room without prior invitation and took advantage of my unconsciousness. I woke up to him having sex with me. I texted him about it the day after and he pretended like he didn't know I was literally asleep. He's in a frat and I was too scared to say anything. I never felt safe again.	SA, AC- unable to confirm, no idea, DNR, power-social, VS impact, masc perpetrator	names social power influence on seeking justice
106	I was working on a project with a trusted friend and we were working late and both tired. I laid down to take a break then suddenly he was next to me - nothing happened at first and even though I was so tired I couldn't rest. I think he thought I was asleep and he started groping me and I didn't know what to do so I just let it happen. I still don't know what to think because it wasn't "severe" or anything but being touched without my consent makes me realize that is was sexual assault. Reading these posts has allowed me to realize that it wasn't my fault for letting my guard down or not saying no - and given me the courage to share this here.	power-relational, AC-shift, SA, unaware, masc perpetrator	
107	Three years later and I am still suicidal every day.	VS impact	
108	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: National Instagram platform announcement	none	

109	<p>While in undergrad at Downtown University, I was raped at a party off campus. I was blamed by family members and friends who said it was my fault that it happened, it was my fault because I was drunk. I looked to the University's resources for support but found myself reliving the night as I was asked to tell and retell the story. It made me question the way that night made me feel and how it impacts me to this day and if, somehow, it was actually my fault.</p>	SA, victim blame, power-institutional	
110	<p>The first night I was in Denver as a freshman, the Saturday before O week, some athletes that I had met when I first toured the school invited me to a party and I was so excited and went. We drank and we had a lot of fun. Towards the end of the night, one of the guys I knew and considered a friend was leaving and I walked back with him with the intent of grabbing an Uber after I grabbed my bag and jacket which were at his friends house and where he was going. I was really drunk. He insisted I just spend the night and head back in the morning, because my mom might get mad at me if I came back to the hotel room drunk. I agreed and he let me sleep in a spare room in the house. In the middle of the night I woke up to him kissing me, on top of me, with his hands in my underwear, he had already taken off my shirt and shorts. I try to move his hands away from me because he's hurting me and I try to push his face away from mine and finally get out the words. I tell him to stop it and to get off of me. He did. He went to sleep right next to me and I laid awake until the sun came up and got an Uber back to where I was staying with my mom. I didn't tell my mom what happened. I threw up</p>	freshman, power-social, power-relational, masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC-shift. VS impact, DRN, unaware, power-institutional?	believes DU would not have done anything; example of institutional power?

<p>3 times the next day out of disgust and took several scorching hot showers to try and wash away any trace of him. Luckily, my mom played it off as a bad hangover. I thought for the longest time this was just me being a stupid drunk and my mistake, my fault. And sometimes I can't help but think it is. I always find myself trying to defend him. I even used to say hi to him whenever I saw him. But recently, the stares he gives me and the looks his friends give me when they see me on campus just make my stomach twist. I never reported this incident because I knew it wasn't worth it. I knew nobody would really care about it. I knew it would be brushed off like no big deal. And, I didn't want to start college as a victim. I ignored it for so long and it's affected so many of my relationships, a year and a half later and I still... can't sleep for more than a couple hours at a time. I wake up multiple times every night to the quietest noises. Every time I hear someone outside of my building, every time my roommate turns in her sleep. It's sad knowing that even if I had reported the incident, I would probably be in the same position I'm in now if not worse.</p>		
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111	<p>This happened not long ago and I don't feel ready to share all the details publicly, even if its anonymous, so I'm leaving this vague. This is something I'm still coming to terms with. A boy I had just met ended up in my room alone with me. He initiated it, I was so surprised I didn't know how to tell him no. He just grabbed me and started kissing me, without a warning. I told him I didn't really want to have sex but he got into bed with me and put my hand down his pants. I never said no or told him to stop, but I was miserable the entire time to the point where I felt nauseous. I just wanted it to be over so I could go to sleep. He left the next morning without even saying anything. I cried for hours that day. I have never felt more worthless and confused. When I see him around campus he always looks happy and it angers me that he probably doesn't realize he did anything wrong. The boy who made me feel so used and disgusting can walk past me on campus and hide his eyes like I don't exist. I brushed it off to my friends as an awkward hookup. I didn't report it because I honestly don't know if what happened to me constitutes sexual assault... I didn't tell him to stop and he didn't aggressively force me into anything, but I did not want any of that to happen. The fact that this movement even has to exist here at Downtown University is insane. I shouldn't be afraid to be with a guy again because I'm worried if I'll have a panic attack. I shouldn't be scared to go out with my friends because seeing him makes me hate myself. I shouldn't have been afraid to tell him to stop or to talk about what happened to me because of who he is. That's beyond fucked up. We need to protect the victims and stop making excuses</p>	<p>SA, masc perpetrator, not taking a no, AC, VS impact, no idea, unaware, DNR, power-social, call to action</p>	<p>names social power as factor to not take action</p>
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	for people who don't understand what "no" means. This needs to end.		
112	There is a guy that lives on my floor that sexually assaulted me twice that I reported along with two other girls on my floor and he does not go to class and had not been to a single class and it is end of week five. he sits on his computer and the screams all day he lives next to me and I can hear every single word. Kid comes from a lot of money and he was a varsity wrestler. He also assaulted one of my friends and nothing was done and many administrative members know about him. I feel unsafe and I am then put to blame for reaching out.	masc perpetrator, SA, power-social, power-institutional, VS impact	
113	I sincerely cannot wait to get out of this school. I feel trapped as a victim being punished by the administration who doesn't want me to have a voice. They are doing everything in their power to get me to emotionally react so they can expel me... and trust me, they have a lot of power. How does this just go under the radar? Please. What can we do to save future students from this	power-institutional, call to action, VS impact	names GBV as oppression; good quote

	oppression? The fact that they get paid to hurt us further...		
114	<p>I was in line for the bathroom at border alone when it was pretty empty. I usually can take care of myself, and with my friends nearby I wasn't worried about waiting in line or going in by myself when I had done it so many times before. As I went into one of the bathrooms, a man came in with me and pushed me against the door. He was kissing me, trying to rip my shirt off of me. I managed to get him off of me and ran home. The whole encounter lasted maybe 30 seconds but there are still so many nights when I wake up gasping for breath as I remember the feeling of his hands on my legs and on my throat. It's been a year now, and not a day goes by that I don't carry this burden with me.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, SA, VS impact</p>	

115	<p>I interviewed this guy for a Clarion story. He started inviting me to house parties. I said no until one night my roommate wanted to go so I said yes. After a couple beers we all went downtown and he got me a martini from the bar. Everything went fuzzy, then black. I have fragmented flashes of memories: someone carrying me into his house from a car. People telling other people I needed water. Waking up at 3 a.a. on a cold tile bathroom floor with my face stuck on a toilet seat. Trying to respond to a text from my other roommate asking where we were. Her showing me the next day that it was a jumble of incoherent letters. Him waiting for me as I crawled out of the bathroom. Trying to sleep while he climbed on top of me from behind, moved my panties to the side and penetrated me. No ability to speak. Waking up to him having sex with me again while his friends jumped on the bed like buffoons. I got up and went to breakfast with him, his friends and my roommates in the morning, not remembering anything. He left to pick up his girlfriend from the airport. Days later it came flooding back. I cried and slept for a week, so confused. My clothes were still in a heap on my floor. I went to my ob/gyn. She documented severe visible trauma to my cervix. She said my symptoms were consistent with the GHB date rape drug, but I didn't get a rape kit done to verify b/c too much time had passed by the time my amnesia faded. I contracted HPV and had to have a horrendously painful procedure where pre-cancerous cells were burned and scraped off my cervix. I made a report to Downtown University. This went through student affairs (no Title IX back then). He had just graduated</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC-unable to confirm, did report, power-institutional, power-social, VS impact, call to action</p>	<p>call to action, good quote (head for section?)</p>
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	<p>so there was nothing they could do... I filed a police report. I went to the station alone. The detective interrogated me with a barrage of shaming and blaming questions on camera. He took my clothes from that night. He swabbed my cheek for a DNA sample to the lab could match it to my vaginal secretions in my underwear to make sure I wasn't planting evidence. My perpetrator got a lawyer. The DA rejected the case because DPD "didn't have the resources to prosecute ever minor date rape case." I lost friends who didn't believe me. I had my dignity, power, health and safety stripped away. Then, for the icing on the cake, the Downtown University alumni magazine wrote a story about my rapist and his career accomplishments. I have chronic PTSD. I've tried to commit suicide multiple times. I'm divorced. I don't have any real friends - I don't trust people. That night changed the trajectory of my entire life. Do fucking better.</p>		
116	<p>I posted on here before. I was drugged at my own fraternity party. I was an RA, I was forced to see title IX just to save my job. This was the third time I had told the story because I had to, I didn't want to ever tell it or think about it again. I had to tell my story and show them the blood tests from the hospital showing that I tested positive for rohyphnol. I felt like this was my fault, and to be fair I was not the best RA but it was my third year and I lost the interest. Fair. But my boss, {name removed}... still in charge of the "apartments" community and {name removed} called me into their office and told me that I was fired, made up fictitious complaints, and then the HR representative casually brought up that "if</p>	power-institutional	

	<p>I didn't want these complaints on the record... I could resign". I was broken. I couldn't fight for myself. Title IX didn't care. I "resigned". When I realized how fucked up it all was a month later, I sent a complaint to title IX and they told me that I "resigned so there can't be a complaint here"... thank you again for making this account it is making me realize that a guy in a Downtown University polo who works for the title IX department does not represent justice. He represents the bottom line.</p>		
117	<p>I was raped on my 21st birthday by another Downtown University student. I got too drunk at the Stadium and my sorority sis who took me out to the bar left me with a random guy she knew who also went to Downtown University. "He's such a great guy - he's in the cooking club!" We went back to his place and made out for a bit in his room. I could barely walk or talk and just wanted to go home and sleep. When I went to the door, he physically blocked me - he wouldn't let me leave. He walked me to the bed where I laid down. I was scared of fighting back - that I could get hurt. I passed out as he put himself in me. I was in and out of consciousness but I vaguely remember telling myself if I just laid there, it'd be over soon. I have PTSD from that experience. I didn't really date or hook up from that point on in college. I thought it was a bad one night stand. It wasn't until my Intro to GWST class over a year later that I realized it was rape. I graduated over five years ago and I still have night terrors about that night. I'm no longer friends with my sorority sister linked to thank night. She was my best friend in the house but over time I came to associate</p>	<p>masc perp, DFSA, power-social, force, AC-unable to confirm, unaware, VS impact, call to action</p>	<p>call for education and learning about GV/power topics</p>

	<p>her with that experience. She abandoned me and I ended up getting assaulted. I never told her it happened... I still blame myself so I don't even know what I would say. "I needed you to help me get home safe and you couldn't do that and look what happened...?" I know it's not entirely fair to hold it against her, but I just can't forget that she left me. I don't want to know her. And it makes me sad. Everyone at Downtown University should take Intro to GWST and learn about sexual violence. That class gave me a name for what happened to me and helped give me my agency back.</p>		
118	<p>I was a freshman when this had happened. I was hanging out with my best friend in our dorm. It was late at night and we were just watching movies when she got a text from a boy she was talking to, who was a senior, and asked if we wanted to hang out with him and his friend. I didn't think anything of it and was told we were just going to chill and watch movies. So I agree and we walk over to his house off campus. We get there and the guy and his friend said they were getting in the hot tub and asked us to join them. I pulled my friend aside and said we don't have swim suits. The guys best friend over heard me and said "your underwear is just a bikini" she agreed and I finally gave in. We went outside to the hot tub. We all just casually talk. The guys friend then pulls me to his lap. I immediately become uncomfortable and just laugh it off because I didn't want to kill the mood. My friend and her guy start making out with each other. I pretend to be falling asleep to avoid anything. He tries to finger me under the water. I was a virgin so it wasn't working.</p>	<p>freshman, SA, masc perpetrator, power- social, pressure, force</p>	

	<p>He then asks me if I want to go inside. I quickly turn to my friend and I said I couldn't leave my friend alone. She then encouraged me to go. I gave her a look like "no" but I was then carried out of the hot tub and to some random room. Where he proceeded to try to have sex with me and it wasn't working because I was a virgin and not turned on at all. But he said "he will make it work". He has sex with me. And the whole time I just looked at the ceiling wishing it was over feeling disgusted. He forces me to do oral holding my head down until he finishes. My friend and I leave soon after he has sex with me and she is hyping me up and asking for details. I play It off as whatever. We got back to our dorm and I locked myself in the bathroom and cried. I didn't feel like myself looking in the mirror and I felt used and disgusting. I rinsed out my mouth over and over again all while shaking uncontrollably. I sat on the floor, wipe my tears, and clean my act to go continue to watch movies with my friend in our room as if nothing ever happened.</p>		
119	<p>My freshman year my friends and I went to the bars, we were all pretty drunk and still drinking. At one point I realized I lost my friends, was very drunk and my phone had died so I decided to just go back to my dorm. As I was walking out of the bar this guy I recognized from my dorm started talking to me and said he was going back to [residence hall] (also my dorm) and that we should uber together. It was winter and I didn't want to walk home alone so I decided to go with. I don't remember how we got up to his room, or when my clothes came off. Next thing I know he was on top of me, I was so stunned I</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, freshman, DFSA, power-social, AC-unable to confirm</p>	

	<p>couldn't move. I didn't know what to do. He was aggressive and it hurt, I could feel tears running down my face. As soon as he was done he got up and said he was going downstairs because he had ordered food. After he left I put on my clothes and ran out of his dorm. Once I got to my room I broke down, I couldn't stop crying. I never knew his name or saw him again after that.</p>		
120	<p>I was hanging out with my friend when we got invited to hang out with her 3 guy friends. We then climbed into a car and go hang out with another 2 of their friends. So there was 2 freshman girls and 5 guys mix between junior and senior. I walk in and the guys immediately start making comments about my body and ass. Growling at me. Whistling at me. One had even taken a picture of my ass. This is the first time I've meet any of these guys. We all move downstairs to hang out... One guy asked me to follow him so he can show me his bedroom. I check out his room and tell him it was pretty cool. He then whispers in my ear and says "if I stay at his house any longer, I won't have a choice but I'll be in his room getting fucked on his bed..." I laugh it off as a joke and then he grabs both my wrists and pulls me to his body where he kisses my neck and lets me go. I didn't turn around to look at him and just walk forward back to everyone else. I was anxious and scared. I started feeling sick and couldn't breathe. He came out and sat with everyone like he didn't just threaten me. I get an Uber and tell everyone that I have to go because I forgot I had a lot of homework.</p>	<p>power-social, HA, masc perpetrator, SA</p>	

121	<p>There is this guy in my class I was becoming pretty friendly (key word: friend) with and was just hanging out with on occasion (usually always in a public place, I only followed him into his dorm for him to grab something once and didn't let him in mine/made excuses. I didn't want him to get the wrong idea). He was a nice friend and I feel kind of lonely here at Downtown University. I don't have a strong friend group and just have friends scattered across. So I am kinda desperate to make friends and this was no different. Anyways, it was all fine and he was a nice friend to just hang out with and do homework with until last night. He had been drinking all day with his friends apparently and was really tipsy. That's when I started to feel uncomfortable around him.... I didn't find out until we'd already started walking to a friends' dorm. It was just really uncomfortable walking with him in the dark and he kept reaching out and touching me (brushing his arm against me, putting it around me, bumping into me in what seemed purposeful?). And he kept looking over at me and staring at me for prolonged periods of time... (I purposefully pretended not to notice and didn't make eye contact because I was a little scared at this point and we were walking alone in the dark and we're still far from the dorm we were walking to). Anyways, throughout the whole night where we were just sitting with a group of friends and acquaintances and chatting/doing hw, he just made me feel weird and uncomfortable. And I don't like that he kept putting his arm around me and brushing his fingers against my skin for no reason. I don't know if he was acting like this because he was tipsy or what (I don't</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift, HA, VS impact</p>	
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	<p>even really drink much so I don't know) but it just made me feel very weird and now I don't know if I want to even be friends with him anymore. Now I have to see him in class and I don't know if I should ignore his calls and texts or continue hanging out with him. He didn't "sexual assault" me or anything, obviously... He just made me feel very uncomfortable and I'm not sure if I'm overreacting or if he didn't notice or if I'm just stupid and making something up out of nothing? I have no idea. I'm just confused and kind of scared to be around him now in case he continues to act like that. But then again, I have almost no friends so I don't want to cut one off if I'm making this up or nothing even happened really. I'm just so confused and feel so weird now.</p>		
122	<p>My freshman year, I got really caught up with hook-up culture. I thought that's what college was about and needless to say one night I found a guy who would become a regular hook up. He would spend money on me and honestly made me feel like he really cared... We had consensual sex but one night, he took me somewhere in his car. I thought it was romantic but after getting me drunk (and I having no way to get to my dorm) I followed his orders when he demanded I get naked. He shoved lotion in my ass and proceeded to have non-consensual anal with me. I was so upset and scared because I could not run away in the middle of downtown. I broke things off as soon as I met my current boyfriend and he has since left the school, but I often times think about how badly I felt and how I could not go to the bathroom without bleeding or</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, power- relational, AC-shift, SA, VS impact, power-social</p>	

	<p>having excruciating pain for two weeks. I felt used and disgusting. He put me in so much pain and yet he was loved by so many for being a popular frat guy...</p>		
123	<p>I'm a law student at Downtown University. My first year I was approached by a third-year who was very assertive and made me uncomfortable. He tried to use his "experience" to offer me "advice" but I wasn't interested at all. I lived close to school at that time and noticed he had started watching the direction that I walked in when he was smoking on the corner of Asbury, so I started walking home in various directions. One day across to the other side of the street when I saw him and he ended up following me, running to catch up and coincidentally "walking home" in the same direction. I said goodbye at a building that wasn't my own because I was genuinely uncomfortable and he told me he wasn't leaving until he got my number. I panicked in the moment because this was someone I had to be in the same building with every day that year, so I gave it to him. He proceeded to text me every day, add me on all social media, and send me messages when I was in the library from class saying "you look nice today" or other unsolicited things. I ended up trying my best to avoid him as much as possible that year and eventually blocked him on everything but that year was really hard already and the situation, amongst others, made it 10X more difficult... The law school has such an awful</p>	<p>power-social, masc perpetrator, ST, VS impact</p>	<p>power - perpetrator went on to become a practicing lawyer</p>

	<p>history with stocking and sexual violence when it comes to their own students that I knew early on nothing was to be done, but it breaks my heart to know that this person is an attorney practicing law.</p>		
124	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: educational statistics		
125	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: educational statistics		
126	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: educational statistics		
127	<p>During my freshman year, I became friends with a guy who lived in the same dorm as me. The guy and I started to hit it off and I thought he was pretty sweet. One night we went to a party. He was plastered and I was sober. He kept hugging me and grabbing my ass. I was incredibly uncomfortable and tried to avoid him, but one of my friends started dating him. One night, a few weeks later, I was plastered and he was sober and he kissed me when he was hanging out with my friend in my room. I was upset by it and tried to tell my friend, but was left without support. I feel ashamed anytime I talk about my discomfort with him because he is still friends with a lot of my friends, everyone sees him as a good guy but I'm so anxious when I see him and I struggle to move past it.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, power-relational, SA, power-social, VS impact</p>	

128	<p>One of my female roommates violently physically attacked me last year. campus security was helping me with the aftermath, then came to get "her side of the story" a day after the incident... 4 Officers walked into my room after talking to her and said in unison "we don't believe you anymore." she convinced everyone I had ever been friends with that it never happened... I was given the choice to either be friends with people who didn't believe i had been assaulted or just did not care. I chose not to be friends with those people. I no longer have a social group and I am confident that college has been the worst four years of my life. every day I am disappointed in my university and beyond regretful that this is my school.</p>	not GBV	
129	<p>This happened before I came to Downtown University, but I was raped in high school. I tried to push him off of me and fight back, but he was so much bigger than me. I cried and he laughed. I told him no and stop but he didn't care. That was how I lost my virginity. Years after this incident... I still have countless nightmares. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night screaming, shaking, and crying. I still flinch every time someone touches me, and certain smells or images immediately take me back to that night. It sounds like a fake excuse... but this has had an impact on my studies. Whether it's from sleep deprivation because I would rather not sleep than to enter into those nightmares or from the subsequent depression and substance abuse I've been dealing with... Until this page was started, I told myself it was my fault because of how I was dressed and because I was drinking. I told myself that I need to</p>	did not occur at Downtown University	

	<p>move on from an incident that happened years ago. For the first time ever, I've sought therapy. I'm on medication for depression... I've never been believed or seen until now. Because of this page in the conversation it has sparked, I have hope. For the first time ever, I've placed the blame of this incident on my rapist's shoulders. I'm done caring that shit.</p>		
130	<p>@BetterDowntownUniversity post: "All forms of violence are unacceptable. While our focus is on gender-based violence, Downtown University must do better to eliminate all violence. If you have a story of race-based or other identity-based violence, anonymously submit using our link in bio and we will share it here."</p>	names intersection of violence and GBV	
131	<p>@BetterDowntownUniversity post: educational statistics</p>		
132	<p>@BetterDowntownUniversity post: "Five survivors have asked us to take their stories down because of retribution, being asked repeatedly if that story was theirs, or others minimized their experience. We will always respect the wishes of the survivor in these situations, but this is evidence of a larger problem. The first reaction a survivor receives when sharing their story greatly affects whether or not they will open up again. Let's do better."</p>	power-social?	
133	<p>I have my own stories, but this won't be it. I needed to express my gratitude for this account and all of the brave and strong people who have submitted their stories. The past several weeks have been tough because while reading the stories I realized that I had been</p>	SA, unaware	

	<p>sexually assaulted... For a long time I knew deep down that what happened to me with sexual assault, but I never wanted to talk about it because I was scared that I would be invalidated, or that would suddenly become real... After seeing so many stories that were so similar to mine I felt like I was finally heard, like I wasn't alone. Thank you so much to the admin of this page, to the people who have shared their stories, and to the people who believe them.</p>		
134	<p>I dated someone from outside Downtown University for about two years. We loved each other (or I thought we did at the time) but they had deep-seeded anger issues. I was in the mindset that I was going to "help" them to "be better", so I put up with every outburst and comforted and reassured them each time they felt guilty afterwards. But as time progressed the outbursts became harder to handle, more violent, and what he wanted me to do to "comfort" him afterwards got more demanding and draining. I slowly lost touch with my friends and family. I was convinced the problems we were having were worth it for the good times, and normal for long-term couples. They're NOT. One day an outburst was violent enough they approached me with hands poised ready to choke me. I've had enough self-defense training to know how to dodge effectively, but it didn't last. They were much more athletic than me. Eventually I was pinned down and raped. As a manifestation of their anger, they started to incorporate elements of slapping, choking and scratching as they trusted themselves into me... They left bruises, drew blood. I faked orgasm just to make it stop. Either they believed me or</p>	<p>did not occur at Downtown University</p>	<p>perpetrator was not a University student, but VS was.. has call to action to make DU do better, could speak to institutional power?</p>

<p>they were too wrapped up in their own pleasure to care to wonder whether mine was real or not. They came inside me and two minutes later wrapped their arms around me, sobbing hysterically and saying "I'm sorry" over and over. I couldn't stop shaking. It was hard to breathe... It was hard to blink. I couldn't manage any words or tears. In the months after, I was completely numb. Afraid of what they would do if I tried to leave them. I became an extension of them. I stopped thinking for myself. I believed and acted on everything they told me because that's all I had the mental energy to do. When they transferred schools to one in a different state, they broke up with me, and I begged them to stay. I think because I realized I had no idea who I was without them anymore. A year after said breakup I haven't seen or heard from them again. And I wish so desperately I hadn't begged them to stay. With distance and time I realized just how wrong my enabling of their behavior was... To my fellow survivors out there: It is not your fault. It was never, and never will be, your fault. No matter the circumstances, your body and mind are always yours to control. And any person who makes it otherwise is absolutely criminal to have done so, and should always meet justice... My story is not directly related to Downtown University or my Downtown University experience, but the stories on this account have made me angry enough to want to use my voice. To the Downtown University administration: no more enabling. Do better.</p>		
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135	<p>When I was a freshman there was a boy on my friend's floor that I was kind of dating but we never agreed that that's what it was. Looking back, there were a lot of red flags that I missed. When we first began "dating" it was because we both spent the night on our friend's floor in Hall's and I woke up to him kissing me... At the time I thought it showed interest and so I went with it. We ended things later that year because we felt like we were not a good couple. Then around winter break my sophomore year I reached out to him to apologize for blocking him completely from my life. Not long after we started talking again there was a night that we hung out alone during winter break. I had had a few drinks, honestly probably too many. When I went to sleep I was drunk enough that I couldn't answer if I wanted my glasses on or not or if I wanted the lights turned off. At some point in the night he began kissing me and I felt his hands groping me. In the morning, I hid from him in my suitemate's room and told him I left for work. Later when I confided in a mutual friend, he told me that he wanted to remain neutral and that the guy involved had said I initiated this. I never felt more defenseless and alone than that moment.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, freshman, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA</p>	
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136	<p>I went back to a guys house after a night out and we started to hook up. I knew the guy, had classes with him and had been friends with him. At that point we didn't have sex and I just decided to go to bed. I fell asleep really quickly and was woken back up what I felt like almost immediately to him on top of me, thrusting... I tried to get up at first but couldn't until I physically nudged him off. I didn't think much of it until I realized later that week when my friends asked if I had sex with him and I couldn't give them a straight answer. I didn't know because he got on top of me while I was asleep, how could I be sure what else he did? I saw him out the next weekend and he followed me around trying to get me to go home with me and kept telling me my friends left so I should just go with him and it broke me down. I had to leave because I was crying so hard. My best friend emailed CAPE for me that night and they emailed her back telling them they'd look out for me to contact them. I thought I didn't need to until that Monday when I saw him in class and almost started to cry again. I emailed CAPE then and they never responded, which is the worst part about it all... I reached out because I was struggling to handle the fact that I was sexually assaulted and CAPE, who responded to my roommate ABOUT ME, did nothing when I emailed. I was let down by the University.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, SA, VS impact</p>	<p>let down by University</p>
137	<p>This didn't happen at Downtown University, but I still feel it matters. When I was 13 I was sexually abused by my music teacher for 9 months. It was months of manipulation, grooming, and confusion. Six years later it affects me every single day... I have</p>	<p>did not occur at Downtown University</p>	<p>speaks to effects of trauma though?</p>

	<p>attempted suicide three times and I have been in therapy and psychiatric care ever since. I think people really doubt the way sexual trauma affects your day to day actions, even years later. It's not just panic attacks, depression, and fear... It's constant self-doubt, frustration, and sensitivity. I've had many friends tell me "get over it, stop holding onto the past." But I would argue that in terms of trauma the past hold onto you.</p>		
138	<p>I had known him for over a year now. We had been dating for around nine months. I loved him with all my heart and I still struggle to this day with understanding my feelings back then. Since before I started dating him I had been telling him that my faith was important to me and I didn't want to have sex until I was married... On Halloween 2016 as a sophomore that all changed. Him and I and a group of our friends went out, but we weren't really feeling it and decided to go home. I had drank more than I should have that night, but I've been dating him for a while now and we were in love so I figured it was fine. We would just go back to his place and crash... All I remember was leaving the bar with him... The next thing I remember was coming to with him behind me and my face in the sheets. It took me a minute to process the pain of what was happening to me and I was so confused because I had never experienced this before, but I knew it wasn't right. I had no recollection of how I got here and I just knew I needed to leave. I told him I needed to use the restroom and I grabbed a shirt, shorts and my phone. When I got out of his room I ran outside. I didn't know where I was going, but I knew I was still drunk and needed to run,</p>	<p>power-relational, DV, DFSA, AC-unable to confirm, VS impact</p>	

	<p>I've always been a runner. I ended up walking around Downtown University's campus until someone found me and brought me home. The following day I remember returning to his dorm to get my clothes and talk to him about it and the fact that I couldn't piece together what happened. I then tried to explain what I could remember about last night and he asked me if he raped me. I was quick to tell him no because he was my boyfriend and I loved him and I didn't want him to be upset, after all... I was just confused. He then change the subject to how he was upset because I left when it was his first time too and I should have thought about his feelings. From that point on, we started having sex regularly because to me it didn't matter anymore. I had already lost the thing I held close to me so it didn't matter. Except it did. We ended up breaking up a year later and it wasn't until about three months after we broke up that I started to process all that was wrong with our relationship. It is now over three years later and I am still struggling. I don't like being touched and every time I get close to a new guy, I freak out and end things. I don't know how to get past it even today. I'm stronger today than I was back then. I know when to stand up for myself and say no. It doesn't mean all is well, but I'm working on it.</p>		
139	<p>I went out to the bar with a few friends one night. I had a lot to drink, but I was about as drunk as I have been most nights that I have gone out. I met up with this guy that I had hooked up with before, and he paid for a round of shots and I don't remember much after that... I remember walking across the street from the bar, and I had a brief flash of</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA</p>	

	<p>having sex with him. I remember being slightly uncomfortable after so long. Everything else from that night is a blur. I don't know if I said yes. I think I might have. I was way too drunk to give consent... I'm scared that some thing was slipped into my drink. I cannot form a coherent text to my friends. I don't know if I was raped, but I do know that I could not have given consent with how intoxicated I was... It happened a while ago so I feel like I cannot report it, and I want to assume the best in him because I don't think he would do that. However, I am not sure at this point.</p>		
140	<p>I went to the bars with my friends, started dancing with a guy I didn't really know, but he was in a frat with one of my friends. I decided I was tired and he offered to walk me back to my dorm. He kept trying to hold my hand and grab my butt and I kept trying to tell him no, but I was a little drunk and a little scared. He followed me up to my dorm room, at this point I didn't want to open my door and have him follow me into my room, because I didn't have a roommate... I texted one of my other friends and acted like there was an emergency and she needed to come stay with me. I thought that would make it seem like someone was coming and he shouldn't follow me in. I unlocked my door and he pushed me down, I fell on my knees and screamed. My door was still open and he ran. I stopped going out after that and made up excuses as to why I had bruises all over my legs for two weeks... I still struggle to be alone in my house with guys, three years later.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, not taking a no, force, SA, VS impact</p>	

141	<p>As a survivor of sexual assault, I struggled watching my friend go through and abusive relationship. I never liked her boyfriend and I spent most of their relationship trying to get her to see that what he was doing was assault... I had to sit in class with my friends abuser and not say anything. It was hard for me to be civil in class and I still have trouble seeing him around campus. He is a part of campus leadership for both religious and secular reasons. She is currently pushing a Title IX case, but the university seems more than ready to protect her abuser instead of my friend and all of the rest of us that are uncomfortable with him around in a position of power. I can't really do anything but support my friend while she goes through all of this, but it is so hard.</p>	<p>secondary survivor, power-social, power-institutional, VS impact</p>	
142	<p>Downtown University is still failing to protect students, even after all of this talk about the page. I know of at least two members of student government under title nine investigation and admin is doing nothing about the fact that they continue to hold power on campus and make decisions that affect all students, including their victims. I feel less safe because they are allowed to maintain their image and positions in student government while they are under investigation. Admin says they know they need to do better, but I'll believe it when I see it.</p>	<p>power-social, power-institutional, call to action</p>	
143	<p>I dated a guy in [Fraternity] my sophomore year. One day after the bars I was with him at the frat house and his best friend called me a whore in front of his other frat friends. My then boyfriend not do anything to defend me and stayed silent as a broke down in tears. He</p>	<p>power-relational, power-social, masc perpetrator,</p>	

	<p>proceeded to defend his friend throughout our whole relationship and made me feel guilty and ashamed. I developed a really bad social anxiety and couldn't... go out without feeling self-conscious. I still have very low self-esteem. That moment and that night goes around my head all the time and give me really bad anxiety attacks.</p>	<p>HA, VS impact</p>	
144	<p>Just got followed and weirdly shouted out by a man after leaving a work out at the Ritchie Center. I just tried to not listen and get away from him. It's not right that I am constantly worried about situation like this, but I feel like I have to be constantly vigilant, since I'm by myself in the dark. (Also, might be a good idea to make it better later on-campus in general)... This isn't the first time something like that has happened to me on the use campus. And sadly, I'm sure this won't be the last.</p>	<p>HA, masc perpetrator</p>	<p>normalized or expected/accepted expressions of power and control</p>
145	<p>My ex-boyfriend wanted to talk after we broke up so we were on better terms because we had classes together. We got coffee to talk and he drove back but took away I didn't know... He stopped the car in an alley, he pushed the seat back on the passenger side and locked the doors. He raped me and then hold me that he was happy we fixed things... I don't have classes with him anymore but I still see him around.</p>	<p>power-relational, masc perpetrator, force, SA</p>	
146	<p>@BetterDowntownUniversity post: National Instagram platform announcement</p>	<p>none</p>	

147	<p>I was harassed by my boss. I did that "right thing" and reported in hopes of people that claim to be allies believing me; I ended up being forced to resign by my supervisors, forced by HR and Title IX to have multiple "mediations" with my abuser (where I was mocked and belittled in front of them), and then forced to resign. I've been silenced. I feel broken. People that were supposed to be there for me ultimately turned their back on me and people that were supposed to help, took their side... Physically being at this institution is nauseating and triggering. People in these roles that harmed me have since been promoted and coddled and left to do what they did to me to countless other employees (documented). I feel like I've lost myself, friends, and relationships I once cherished deeply. Like everything I once was I no longer am and I dont know how to pick up the pieces. What's worse is that people that claim to be on my side left me at the first sign of me "no longer being myself "and living to their expectation of who I should be. I dont even know who that person is anymore, so what can you expect from me. I was tenacious, determined, and passionate. Now I feel silenced, lonely, broken, defeated, and helpless. I've spent \$3600 on therapy to date just to realize the best thing for my mental health is to leave the space, but then Downtown University would be taking another thing from me. Downtown University has taken so much from me. Downtown University has taken my professional passion, my fond memories of Denver, my motivation and my determination... I'm embarrassed to even receive my dream degree from this institution because of how much direct pain</p>	<p>employee, HA, did report, power-institutional, power-social, VS impact, GN perpetrator, call to action</p>	<p>naming of impact of institutional power</p>
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	I've experienced and the pain I see others go through constantly. I hate this place. Do better. We deserve it.		
148	He was my "boyfriend "at the time. A foot taller than me and double my weight. I had told him no three times before he held me down and slid it in. I kicked and screamed and when it was over, I stayed. I tried to pretend it never happened. I never told anyone. It will always scar me. My "first" was rape. And I have felt filthy and worthless ever since.	masc perpetrator. power-relational, not taking a no, force, SA, DNR, VS impact	
149	My freshman year at Downtown University I was invited to a fraternity date party by the risk manager of the house. I had a little too much too drink and felt sick at the event, so, he offered to bring me back to the fraternity house. I went back with him and immediately was throwing up in one of the communal bathrooms. That is the last thing I remember before waking up the morning after with my clothes off dressed only in one of his hockey jerseys. I didn't remember what had happened so I hoped that he had not had sex with me. Later that day when I was back home I went pee and a part of a broken condom came out of me. Not only had he had sex with me while	freshman, power-social, masc perpetrator, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA	

	I was unconscious, but he failed to mention that the condom had broke.		
150	<p>This didn't happen at Downtown University but I'm a Downtown University student so I hope that's ok. I went to a midnight movie with my boyfriend and his friends. I pregame with a friend at downtown university and didn't drink more than I can handle, but enough for a buzz. While at a restaurant before the movie I began to feel dizzy and disoriented. All I had after I left downtown university was water. I don't remember much of the movie... I went to the bathroom multiple times, at one point I purged because I wanted to get what was in my system out. It didn't work. I was with my boyfriend all night so I know nothing had happened there, but I know somehow I got drunk. I told some trusted friends and they all say I just drank too much. I know I didn't just drink too much. I've done that before and I know what it feels like. I feel sick and I don't know who to turn to since I wasn't actually assaulted, and no one believes me anyway.</p>	did not occur at Downtown University	
151	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: "Thank you all for your continued support. We did not anticipate the large growth this movement has had in such a short period of time. We thank the administration for the detailed plan they released today. For our full statement on the new plan, please visit our website (link in bio)."	none	

152	<p>My bigger stories of being raped, sexually assaulted, and harassed occurred at another university, at work, in high school, and in the general public. I am a part-time grad student at Stur姆, and about a year ago was walking into campus and was cat called, whistled at, and objectified by the construction workers working on campus. Not only do we need to build a culture among students and staff, but we need to make better efforts to know our counterparts when we engage in contracting. The same standards we hold students and staff to, need to apply to the business is performing work on campus.</p>	HA, GN perpetrator, call to action	
153	<p>My freshman year at Downtown University there was a group of fraternity boys who were keeping count of how many girls they could surprise with "the shocker..." During what I wanted to be a consensual experience I had this done to me without asking. I was terrified and remember quickly rushing out of his dorm room in Centennial Hall. I found out about the pact the boys had made later when another girl was explaining that it happened to her to with the same guy.</p>	freshman, masc perpetrator, power-social, AC-shift	social power present in "gamifying" power and control; seen as norm within group

154	<p>1/2: I was raped at the end of my first quarter at Downtown University several years ago. It was the last day of finals and my friends and I were celebrating. We were drinking and having a lot of fun. I was making out with a girl (which was entirely consensual) and considering coming out to my parents over winter break. This guy kept watching us. He wasn't a student at Downtown University, he was the older brother of one of the people in our friend group. He kept trying to get in between us. He kept bringing us more drinks. At one point she fell off her chair and he ended up on top of her on the floor and I threatened to kick him in the face. He got off, but then somehow was in between us. Suddenly I was kissing him and it wasn't what I wanted and I knew I was too drunk. We made him get out from in between us and go away. He kept coming back. Eventually she went to her room because she didn't feel well and he offered to walk me back to my dorm from where we were hanging out so that I wouldn't get in trouble with the RAs.... I figured that was a good plan because I didn't want my parents to find out I've been drinking. He knew I was gay, right? I told him at least 5 times that night. Why would he think I want to keep doing anything? We got to my building and he asked if he could come up and have some water. He only had a couple beers but I figured it would be good for him to drink water and I needed to anyway and I thought my roommate was still home and he leave. She was in the library. I was alone. And suddenly I was on my bed and he was on top of me. It hurt. It was scary. I kept floating away (disassociating) and coming back because it hurt so much. I have never had sex</p>	<p>DFSA, freshman, LGBTQ, AC-shift, not taking a no, DNR, power-institutional, victim blame</p>	<p>There have been a few instances where the msc perpetrator has not liked the response of the V/S following assault, and has lashed out at the V/S (name calling, making it so he was the harmed party, implying it was the V/S fault). How does this intersect with power?</p>
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and suddenly someone was doing this to me. He wasn't wearing a condom. I remember realizing that about half way through. I don't know how long it took but I was crying. I kept asking him to stop. He acted like he didn't hear me. When he was done he got off me and went to get water from the kitchen. He came back and I was still laying there, frozen and sobbing quietly. He asked if I liked it. How could he think I liked it? I didn't answer. I turned away from him. He called me an ungrateful dyke bitch. I lay there for a while. Either two minutes or two hours. I knew I wouldn't report it, not after what I heard about the way the sort of thing was handled. I've been drinking, after all. I let him come to my room... I wouldn't have dreamed of blaming anyone else who had the same thing happened to them, but I really believed it was my fault. And I couldn't imagine telling anyone what had just happened to me. So I got up. I threw away my clothes. I ended up in the shower, as hot as I could make it, sitting on the floor and staring at the wall until one of my suitemates knocked on the door. I got out. I took the sheets off my bed and slept in a sleeping bag because I didn't have the energy to put new sheets on. I say I slept, but I kept jolting awake, terrified. The next day I washed my sheets and flew to my grandparents' house for thanksgiving with my family...

155	<p>2/2 ...I never reported it. I never told my family what happened since my parents and suggested that I should treat an experience with childhood sexual abuse as "a gift from god" that I could "use to bring others to the light." No thanks. I dropped out the next quarter when I couldn't make myself go to class regularly. I was also added to my parents. I started drinking more and smoking weed more often and taking the light rail to dark lonely place is hoping someone would kill me. I thought about stepping in front of a car every day walking to class. So I went home. Four years later I still haven't graduated from college. I'm watching my friends from that first quarter move on in life and I'm barely able to keep a minimum wage in service job because there are days (especially in November around the anniversary) where I can't get out of bed. I have PTSD that severely interferes with my life. I can't go to crowded places without fear of a panic attack someone bumped into me unexpectedly, or I see someone who looks like him, or someone cat calls me or my girlfriend. There are too many effects to list them all... And it took him maybe 20 minutes to do this to me. I wish I had never come to Downtown University. I wish I could forget what happened there.</p>	VS impact	
156	<p>I attended Downtown University for two years before transferring during a time when Yikyak was rampant on campus and became the target of horrible accusations about my sexual health... My name was everywhere and I felt like I couldn't go to class or walk around campus without people staring at me. I brought my concerns to a panel that was hosted with the faculty and Campus Safety</p>	HA, SA, VS impact	

	<p>about Yikyak and I was told there was no way for them to find out who the perpetrator(s) were. I still live every day not knowing who wrote the rumors that damaged multiple years of my life... These Yikyak rumors were on the heels of actual physical assault I had received twice during my time at Downtown University.</p>		
157	<p>He was my boyfriend at the time, and in the beginning, I was allowed to use our Safe word, but then he started to get aggressive and will yell at me and kick me out if I used it. Eventually, I was scared and just wanted him to love me, so I just lay there and cried while he raped me. Afterwards, he ignored me for a couple days, and then broke up with me because I had made him feel "gross" and that it was my fault that happened. He graduated a while ago but all my friends and acquaintances remember him and love him... I drunkenly opened up about what happened to a mutual friend and she tried to brush what happened off as a misunderstanding, and that I should have just said no.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator. power-relational, power-social, AC-shift, force, pressure, SA, victim blame</p>	<p>another example of masc perpetrator shifting blame following an assault</p>
158	<p>This didn't happen at Downtown University, but when I was a freshman I went out with a guy from [another local college] The first date went very well so in the second date I decided I'd have sex with him (my "first")... We were having sex and all of a sudden I felt a lot of pain in my butthole. I have not consented to having anal but he did it anyways. When I told him it hurt he told me "we'll work it" and kept going... I was also very clear that I wanted to have sex with a condom on and he started that way and then pulled it off after a while. I now know this is called "stealthling."</p>	<p>did not occur at Downtown University</p>	

159	<p>So first quarter of my college experience, I lived on this floor with some awesome people. Then this one group of people decided to start making anti-Jewish jokes and stuff about the holocaust... and I am Jewish and I have not experienced anything like this at all, until now. I started to get sick of how I was being treated and everything and left that group for my best interest. I forgot about... It during break and I just enjoyed myself. Upon returning to school I remembered that I would have to see those people again for the rest of the year got very annoyed at that fact. I told...one of my friends what happened because I don't like to have things be such a big deal. My friend outreach told me that but they said it wasn't okay and they were making anti-Semitic jokes... to me and that I need to fix this. I thought my friend was over reacting and that they needed to chill. But trying to make things right and balancing it all is very difficult. I'm still trying to fix this.</p>	not GV - anti-Semitism	
160	<p>This quarter, I have experienced two instances of gender based discrimination and harassment. Both have been done in front of my class and no one has done anything to help me. All of these people watched it happen and no one chose to intervene. I was embarrassed and ashamed about my body as a result of these actions. This is taking a real toll on my mental state and made me uneasy and presenting myself to other people. I'm afraid to report this to the University as it does not seem like anything will be done and I will just face another personal toll.</p>	GN perpetrator, HA, VS impact, power-institutional	

161	<p>I was a freshman in 2009 - we were at a frat house "pre-gaming" for our sorority's spring formal when I started feeling off. I then awoke the next morning without a single memory beyond some photos we took as a group. I awoke cold and naked, in my boyfriends bed. I was on my period and suspected we had sex, despite him escorting me to "safety" from the house. I checked my phone which had several texts from friends who'd seen me attempt to walk to the sorority house where our bus to the event was waiting and struggle to stand up straight. As someone who barely drank, this was horrifying. I went to the Campus doctor later that day who removed my tampon which had been lodged up so far, I couldn't remove it myself. I was ashamed and confused and never told a soul, never really acknowledging for a decade: while I knew I had been drugged, I never truly excepted that I was raped. Because he was my boyfriend, I assumed I must've seemed lucid at some point but these are excuses to keep victims in a never ending cycle of shame and blame.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, power- relational, DFSA, AC- unable to confirm</p>	<p>power of victim blaming, in VS own words</p>
162	<p>There was a guy who I had hooked up with a few times previously. One day our weird relationship came up in therapy and I wanted to try and talk to him about it. While we were talking we ended up fighting for a couple days. Finally one night we decided to try and talk again to get over fighting. We ended up making out and after we were done talking, things started to get intense and I had to push them off a couple times. Later I woke up to him drinking the leftover drink I had next to my bed and pressing himself against me. Over the course of three hours he violated me in</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power- relational, AC-shift, AC-unable to confirm, not taking a no, SA, VS impact, power-social</p>	

	<p>many ways, none of which involved a condom. The next morning I broke down in the shower while getting ready to meet with my family. Later that day our mutual friend found out that he had no clue what he did to me was wrong... that I was asleep for part of it, and she came with me to buy Plan B. Today I had to go into the HCC to get tested and ended up with getting a shot in two different antibiotics as a precaution. I've missed a week of class and work already and cried in my academic advisor's office. I don't feel comfortable walking on campus in areas where I know I might see him. I'll miss the weekly improv shows but seeing this person on the team makes it so I don't feel safe there, I wish the leadership would have been willing to at least talk about the member and the situation.</p>		
163	<p>This happened midway through my sophomore year of college. I dated a girl in [Sorority]for a significant part of my sophomore year, and she took me to one of her formals (If you're not familiar with them, sororities make you use their transportation to and from official events, such as formals.) As we were sitting on the bus waiting to leave the venue, I made an admittedly unpleasant joke to one of my friends who is sitting in a row behind me. My then-girlfriend (who is sitting in the seat beside me) heard what I said and in response, slapped me across my face. I have never considered hitting a woman option, period, full-stop. I placed implicit trust in her that since we were in a relationship, we would not lay hands on one another. I assume she had that same view. To me (and I think also to most people), that is just how relationships are</p>	<p>fem perpetrator, power-relational, DV, call to action</p>	

	<p>supposed to be. I felt ashamed of myself for being upset at what happened - my warped view was that I should just move on with my life and try to forget what happened. Even the amount of time I spent talking with my therapist about what happened that night upsets me because of my inability to move past having that trust the trade. No matter who you are, please don't hit the person that you're in a relationship with.</p>		
164	<p>Within the first month of my freshman year, I was threatened with rape if I did not "get him off some other way". Easter weekend of freshman year, I lost my virginity to rape. I grew up as a highly competitive athlete and did not have time for boys, so I figured I'd wait for someone I trusted. That spring I had been seeing someone, and when I told him what had happened he got mad at me for losing my virginity to someone else... Our shared friend group sided with him and convinced me I had not been raped. They used my assault as a justification for him dating another girl and lying to me about it. Over the summer I wrestled with all this plus the death of my grandmother and dog, and started sophomore year shaky but ready to make new memories. I moved into the sorority house with a [residence hall] friend who had been helpful freshman year, and we didn't work as roommates as I well as I'd hoped but I didn't think much of it. I started to struggle more and more with insomnia and other issues, so I moved to a room across the hall in order to focus on my health without disturbing her. I found out almost immediately after moving out that she had told several of our mutual friends that my</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, pressure, SA, victim blame, power-social</p>	<p>example of social power working to protect perpetrator</p>

	<p>assaults were fake or at least exaggerated, made up to get attention and sympathy. We are now seniors and I had mostly moved on from everything until I found out through other mutual friends that she continues to tell people this and insists that all I do is "shit talk" her. I work a full-time job am still a competitive athlete, and could care less about her except to share the story about supporting survivors. The girls who helped convince me I had not been raped were also in my sorority, and one even slapped me over when I tried to talk to her about the emotional manipulation. The sorority did very little to support me throughout all this and I ended up dropping.</p>		
165	<p>What is Campus Safety doing the middle of all this? I have a friend who works there that told me that they just cut to officer positions. What are they doing to hire more minorities, women and LGBTQ people? Not a thing. They did no recruiting for any of them. A short time ago campo fired a black officer for not following the pursuit policy. They just had a white seargent who didn't follow the same policy, he wasn't even talked to! How long has Downtown University been saying that they are going to improve? It seems like they are not even trying to improve in these areas, they are making NO effort. Talk is cheap!</p>	no GBV	
166	<p>@BetterDowntownUniversity post: "April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Click the link in our bio to send a letter of support survivors, we will post these on our page. We must continue to believe and support survivors, especially as some may be quarantined with abusers or experiencing delays in the Title IX process."</p>	none	

167	<p>@BetterDowntownUniversity post: Sexual Assault Awareness Month Letters to Survivors - "To anyone who has endured the pain, anxiety, anger, shame, fear, depression, hurt, sadness, bitterness, and/or loneliness from any type of abuse or assault, know you are not alone. These feelings are normal to experience after such a traumatic event, but they are not solely your burden to bear. There are others who understand you and support you. Sometimes it feels like these feelings can devour your whole, and leave nothing left of you but the pain, but you are more than your assault/abuse and a survivor. I have to still remind myself that I'm not alone in this, and that everything will be OK. Don't forget that. - Downtown University Survivor"</p>	none	
168	<p>@BetterDowntownUniversity post: Sexual Assault Awareness Month Letters to Survivors - " Thank you. <3 thank you all for sharing your stories. Individually, you may never know how much you have impacted other survivors, but know that in sharing your story you have helped others begin their own journey of learning their strength and gaining their voice. I am in awe of the strength and grace that it took each and everyone of you to speak out. A million thank you's will never be enough."</p>	none	
169	<p>@BetterDowntownUniversity post: Sexual Assault Awareness Month Letters to Survivors - "You don't know me, and I don't know you. But – you were one of the strongest people I have ever known. You did nothing to deserve this... your body's worth is not defined by it. You will grow beautifully not because, but in spite of those who try to kill your spirit... I</p>	none	

	am so proud of you. Human to human, I send my love."		
170	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: Title IX staffing post		
171	I was alone in a study room working on a paper in [a residence hall]. I noticed that a man sat down in a chair in the hallway across from my study room at around 11 PM. I didn't think much of it, and when I finally turned in my paper at exactly midnight I was so excited to get to bed only to find this man with his pants around his ankles vigorously touching himself. I used my voice and screamed "what the fuck are you doing? NO." He didn't bat an eye and continued on, staring at me. I've never felt so violated in my own home. To this day I'm jumpy passing a man on the sidewalk or every time someone moves their hand too quickly. I tend to laugh it off with my friends or minimize my situation by telling myself it's not that bad, nobody even touched me. But this has affected me deeper than I could have imagined and I've worked hard to find a sense of peace again and a part of that process has included seeking criminal justice. I can't help feeling lucky and undeserving that he was criminally charged. This validation does not occur for too many survivors, so why is it happening for me? Am I just lucky?	masc perpetrator, HA, VS impact, did report	VS questions that they ar getting justice bc it is so rare; critique of system
172	He slid into my DM, he seemed like a nice guy and I had heard great things about him. One night he came to my room and we were talking suddenly he started making sexual advancements, I sternly told him I did not want to but he forced me, I felt violated and stop responding to his messages there after.	masc perpetrator, power-social, AC-shift. force, not taking a	

	He pretends to be a saint on social media and it makes me sick when I see people appreciating that devil.	no, SA, VS impact	
173	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: overview of new Title IX regulations		
174	I was sexually assaulted my freshman fall semester at Downtown University. I have been flirting with a guy I had known since orientation... I was threatened to go back to his frat house with him. He started to get more and more aggressive with me. After 10 times saying no and saying I did not want to have sex with him, he forced me to do other things with him... And that is the last thing I remember from that night until the next morning when I woke up completely naked not remembering if we had sex that night. After 4 years, pregnancy tests, blood work, depression/suicidal and PTSD later, here is to the boy who sexually assaulted/raped me... You took so much power, confidence and trust away for me. So right now I will take it all back because I am worth so much more than what you took me for.	SA, freshman, masc perpetrator, power-relational, not taking a no, force, AC-unable to confirm, VS impact	
175	I don't know what's worse losing my best friends over all this or losing myself. It was my sophomore year, over a year ago... But it runs through my mind like it was yesterday... I still feel the bruises he left between my legs. I still cry myself to sleep thinking of him inside me. I still have anger at those who I once considered my friends, who convinced me that it was my fault. Who didn't believe me. Who said I was with him that night because I wanted to be. The truth of the matter is I didn't know him. I had never met him in person before that night. To put it into	masc perpetrator, DFSA, victim blame, AC-unable to confirm, VS impact	

	<p>context had I seen him on my way to class or out in the daytime, I would have never ever even looked up or said hi... The night of my rape I was drugged... I was brought back to his dorm, a dorm I had never been to. My clothes were ripped off of me. I woke up naked on a stranger's bed. I have no memory of any of it. He turned me into someone I don't recognize whose body I can't escape... no matter how many scolding hot showers I take. He turned me into a doll.</p>		
176	<p>@BetterDowntownUniversity post: Title IX policy post</p>		
177	<p>I was assaulted completely off campus my freshman year by someone that did not go to Downtown University and I was not interested in pressing charges. That combined with the traumatic stories that I knew of people going through Title IX for assault that happened on campus or only involved do you students was enough for me to never seek any help. However, I went from being a straight A student to C's and D's. I couldn't focus on anything, all the sudden all my old study habits for useless. For someone that has gotten good grades all their life it was another loss of self and another downfall I blamed myself for... Even though I worked doubly hard it was barely enough to keep my GPA up to keep my scholarships and it wasn't enough for me to get into my major program the next year... I want to share my story because I am an example of why academic support for survivors is so important. In my opinion, the effects of the mental scars that I have are far surpassed by how much damage that one night did to my academic and professional career. I've been able to see got therapy on my</p>	<p>did not occur at Downtown University</p>	<p>names specific role or power University could have had</p>

	own and continued my mental health journey but the university is the only one that could've helped me find a way to manage my academics.		
178	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: "The core of our mission is to end identity-based violence. We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and demand systemic change. We will be sharing ways to help on our story."	none	
179	I finally told my ex-boyfriend that I did it last year that he raped me. I've been holding that in for over a year. I finally found the strength to tell him and it feels like a weight has been lifted off my chest. I am smiling, laughing, delirious. He denies it of course. I never thought I would have had the strength to tell him – but I am proud of myself for doing so. Weirdly enough, going to the BLM protest gave me strength... If I can survive teargas and rubber bullets, I can be strong enough to speak out.	Masc perpetrator, power-relational, SA	
180	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: "We were asked to take down our recent post for fear of retaliation but we would like to be clear: if you were in a position of power at Downtown University and have perpetrated gender-based violence... We demand your immediate resignation. If you're reading this post and wondering if it applies to you, it does.	none	

	RESIGN. Perpetrators do not belong in positions of power."		
181	I am currently a graduate student at Downtown University my program is one that focuses on human rights and activism. This past year there has been another student in my program who has been actively pursuing Womxn in an uncomfortable way. It has been brought up to multiple professors and the directors from Womxn in the program and the response has been to put the accountability back on the Womxn experiencing the unwanted advances. It has gotten to the point students making contingency plans to not be alone with the student. It's been frustrating to watch how even in programs that focus on vulnerable populations that the classrooms are not safe.	HA, GN perpetrator, institutional power. victim blaming	example of institution failing and instead victim blaming
182	@BetterDowntownUniversity post: Title IX policy post	none	
183	@BetterDowntownUniversity : "Thank you for everyone that has helped us to create everything that Do Better is! As we grow and evolve, we are changing the primary purpose of this account to announce Downtown University specific policies, keep you updated on the Chancellor's action plan, and post about events on do use campus that you can get involved in. We will no longer be posting stories here, but you can still share on our national account. If you would like to join the official [organization] chapter please click on the "get involved" link in our bio. As always, our DM's are open.	none	

Appendix C: Data Collection and Reflection Log

Date	Notes
1/4/2020	<p>Posts 1-25; I am trying to use the same language so I can go back in easily and search for patterns and repetition. It's easy to forget one (masculine perpetrator, lasting impact, did not report...), so when I remember, I have to go back through to see where I may have forgotten it. So far, each of the posts have either named a masculine perpetrator or have not named a perpetrator gender. On one or two occasions I caught myself assuming the victim/survivor was a woman or femme person, which reinforces/is reinforced by traditional narratives of perpetration and victimization; when I caught myself doing this, I re-read the story and envisioned students with different gender identities in the narrative. I believe this practice helps me to step outside of my assumptions and retrains my mind to have a more expansive immediate response. I still need to reflect on clarifying my research questions. I have added a column in the data collection table for me to correspond the post or my notes to a research question.</p>
1/5/2020	<p>I'm noticing many instances of the perpetrator either not understanding consent, feeling entitled, or otherwise disregarding consent or non-affirmative body language. This could be rooted in the historical nature of perpetration and entitlement to victim/survivor's bodies (an extension or action of power). I am still sitting with how I will connect the stories to the research questions as expressions of power/interrogation of power systems, and move beyond thinking of just the number of "x" behaviors or "y" actions (moving from the individual, to the system).</p>

2/9/2020	<p>I want to go back and review Linder's 2020 article where she and her co-researchers describe the utilization of the power-conscious framework (PCF) within their study. It is used as a frame to focus their research, but not really as a mode of analysis. I am also curious to look at the methodology of the "Sexual Citizens" research (Hirsch & Khan, 2020). I wonder if shifting my framework from phenomenology to something like grounded theory might be more conducive? Then again, I am not necessarily trying to form a new theory (or speak to one that already exists), I just want to better understand what GBV perpetration looks like at DU's campus. And I think remaining aware of the nature of power within perpetration is a way to transform previous research and findings. So while the data may not be able to be assessed through the PCF, my methodology can be. So is this study more about the data, or the process of data collection?? That could be a new finding/direction - I went into this thinking that I would glean new info from the narratives, and so far, they are speaking to things I already know (alcohol use, masculine perpetrator, betrayal by the institution, etc). But what I am finding is that my process is innovative; I am using the PCF and trauma-informed care to guide my research. I should sit with this as an opportunity to reframe my direction.</p>
	<p>In some posts, there are final sentences that address the reader - they are directed at survivors (messages of solidarity) or at friends of survivors (intervene, look out for your friends). But not many that I have read that address the perpetrator, or the school - there is no direct interrogation of those who hold power, or the institutions that wield power. This indicates to me that there isn't a broad awareness of the role/nature of power in perpetration; this could be indicative of the prevalence of rape myths, and where participants are in their process of awareness development (e.g. they may not be actively victim blaming, and they are seeking intervention/community responsibility, but they aren't quite at the point of interrogating power/the underlying systems that support GBV perpetration).</p>
	<p>Potential opportunity to note the lack of trauma-informed practices in University response, which leads to negative outcomes for the survivor.</p>
2/11/2020	<p>They are still acting within the system that hides/maintains GBV perpetration. Students may address one another in the post, but they don't address the University or the perpetrator; they are accepting the norm or</p>

	<p>working within the norm that GBV is normal and an embedded part of our society. It is so normalized or accepted that, even after victimization, our students are not able to identify the deeper power structure. How many posts address the school? The perp? Other survivors? Qualitatively, what does that address look like?</p>
	<p>What power does the IG account have? How come they chose the IG account instead of reporting</p>
3/6/2021	<p>Connects to Linder's first pillar, "engage in critical consciousness and self awareness"; students are still addressing other victims or potential victims, not those within the system that have power. this is not victim blaming but is instead an example of how embedded the dominance structures are in our society</p>
3/13/2021	<p>What am I observing (descriptive/attribute coding)? Can it connect to something else, or is it related to something else (subcode/nested codes)? Can I use students' own words or descriptors (In Vivo or process [-ing words] codes)? How does the code connect to the bigger pictures (concept code)? How is the student feeling, what values and beliefs are evident in their statement (emotion and values codes)? What ideas or assumptions was I going in with (provisional coding)? What hypothesis or hunches did I have about things I might find (hypothesis codes)? Is there any causation between the codes (i.e. does code a happen to cause code b which leads to c?)?</p>
	<p>Began with holistic coding by reading each post and writing the first thoughts that came to me; had to go back and identify specifics through re-reading 2-3 times.</p>
	<p>Can I establish causation between the codes, without inadvertently leading to victim blaming? Like could I say the antecedent was a prior relationship, which led to feeling comfortable, which led to... what? SA? Or, could I frame it as prior relationship > comfortable/trust > assumption of consent? This would focus on the behavior of the perpetrator, and help make the connection and help establish a concept? Review Saldana</p>

	Code would be "SA"; theme would be "assumption of consent" - both are not sufficient to tell a story of GBV at the University; must be combined with other codes and/or themes to establish concepts/complete themes
3/14/21	I'm unsure how to capture the entitlement that I am reading in some of these posts. Or if it even is entitlement - it at times seems like a lack of awareness, and others as a true narcissism. Each involves a masc perpetrator, so it could be connected to the historical nature of masculine dominance. Not sure if it is white masculine dominance, since the race of the perpetrator has not been mentioned - but it could be argued that whiteness is pervasive on a PWI campus, so it is connected to the white supremacist past described in my lit review... The codes that are aligning with this entitlement/disregard/narcissism (theme tbd) are: not taking a no, power-social/relational, pressure, force, assumed consent, and masc perpetrator.
3/15/21	<p>So far, in the experiences I have read, students did not report because they didn't realize their experiences "counted" as GBV. GBV has become so normalized into our society that students don't recognize it as an issue; similarly, perpetrators are socialized into expecting or performing behavior and not realizing what they are doing constitutes a violation of a civil right. The V/S assumes that a lack of power is normal or to be expected.</p> <p>Need to go back and broaden understanding of Q3 - "effect". Can include not only V/S impact, buy also victim blaming, retaliation, social implication, etc</p> <p>Sub-codes of assumed consent: the act began consensually but then shifted into non-consent; the V/S was not able to consent and the perpetrator did not confirm/assumed they had consent</p> <p>Primary behaviors described in this review were sexual assault, harassment, and stalking. Elements of retaliation and victim blaming we present. Failures from the University were described. 3 accounts described the relationship between identity and social power/GBV perpetration. There seems to be a consistent pattern of masc perpetrators disregarding consent, whether that is through ignoring a verbal no or just not even bothering to gain consent in the first place. That seems to convey entitlement through learned socialization. This is especially the case when the perpetrator also belongs to a social class that affords power on campus. I am also seeing where power is exercised across the social ecological model.</p>

	<p>V/S describe degrees of impact and ongoing effects of perpetration. Many did not realize their experience counted, which could speak to the engrained nature of power and dominance afforded to some identities. Some effects also included social ramifications and retaliation - efforts to maintain the status quo?</p>
	<p>What identities are afforded social power? In what way does that manifest in GBV perpetration?</p>
3/16/21	<p>How is power present the experience described?</p>
	<p>What identities are described in the experience?</p>
	<p>What is the relationship between the identity described and the expression of power described?</p>
	<p>What is the context of the power described (is it historical? tied to group or institution?)</p>
	<p>How are dominant group members or systems benefitting from systemic dominance or power?</p>
	<p>What is the role of power described in the interaction? What is the role of power in the institutional or policy-based decisions? How is power exerted in policy practice and what is the effect?</p>
	<p>How can we work with V/s to address and end GBV and oppression?</p>
	<p>After reflecting more on Linder's model, and sitting with the emerging content and themes thus far, I wanted to develop further clarifying questions to help me understand the data. The above are brainstorm questions that can dig deeper into understand the patterns of expressing power and maintaining systems of harm. I will need to figure out if they are appropriate sub-questions or if I need to re-model my research questions</p>
	<p>*Use TIC model as part of recommendations?</p>
3/17/21	<p>Focus solely on SA/ST/HA/DV - how can we help people see GBV is actually more expansive, power-based discrimination based on those deemed deviant from white masculine norm? Recognize this study focuses on that, but also not much else is described on IG (aside from faculty</p>

	interview part) - need for expansive education and information. Name what is missing
	How often do AC-shift and not taking a no overlap? Evidence for entitlement
	How is students not believing the University will have their back an example of institutional power?
	normalized or expected/accepted expressions of power and control - maybe new code?
3/18/21	Map power across social ecological model
	Map intersection of masc perpetrator to: force, pressure, not taking a no, no idea, AC
	What can I map social power and institutional power with? What do they co-occur with??
	What does relational power co-occur with?
	Name VS impact re: social power and institutional power?
	Freshman and power-social, power-relational
	Total number of University-related survivor stories:
3/22/21	After conferring with colleagues in Advocacy, I decided to de-identify my data set further by changing the name of the university. The context of my research is important to my critical reflexivity and relationship to the work, however adding a layer of distance or protection between the reader and the students who created/submitted the Instagram posts is important to me. The confidential, victim/survivor-serving professionals agreed that attempts at further anonymity is trauma supportive.
3/24/2021	I met with a colleague who also studied with Dr. Linder and used the power-conscious framework as their theoretical and analytical frameworks in their dissertation. We discussed application of the model, how to best inform the research questions, and how to use the framework and my questions to

	<p>better understand my data set. I found this meeting helpful and validating of my process. I will share my Chapters 3, 4, and 5 with them as part of my editing and review process for triangulation and validation.</p>
3/25/2021	<p>I have confirmed with my critical friends group that they will review my data and provide feedback as part of my editing and review process for triangulation and validation. I will also be presenting data to the Gender Violence Services (GVS) committee in the University Health and Counseling Center to triangulate and validate my findings, as well as the confidential advocates in the Advocacy program for the same purpose. These internal and external checks will help me ensure that I am interpreting my data correctly and provide me an opportunity to have my findings objectively reviewed. This could lead to deeper understanding of the data and new directions for analysis, in addition to confirming the accuracy of my findings.</p>
	<p>What am I considering GBV perpetration? Is retaliation perpetration? Is institutional mishandling perpetration?</p>
	<p>Which codes overlap? How do they inform a theme? I've associated my codes with my research questions; I now need to see which codes overlap to both answer the research question and illuminate a theme. I could just stop with code frequency, how many times out of 147 did xy or z behavior occur. But in order to illuminate the experience of power in perpetration, I must highlight the connection between the act, the role of power, and its effects.</p>
	<p>Potential grouping of codes: force+pressure, not taking a no, AC-unable to confirm, AC-shift - all center the wants of the person performing the act (the perpetrator), and display a degree of entitlement to get what they want (by any means necessary)</p>
	<p>Do I just have an assumption that men are the problem here?? Is it traits of masculinity? Maintenance of social power (in cases of victim blaming)??</p>
	<p>What type of call to action is it? Does it address other survivors? Potential perpetrators? The University?</p>
	<p>What type of behaviors are described in GN perpetrator and Fem perpetrator codes? Mimicking power/aligning with dominant behaviors?</p>
	<p>Dig into VS impact - how does power play a part? Removal of autonomy? Decreased social or relational power?</p>

	<p>Look at the pieces of the phenomenon, not as individual or separate parts but as illuminating facets of the whole.</p>
	<p>It was tempting to look at the occurrences of codes, the number of times one occurred with another, or to track the frequency and quantity. However, this reduced the experiences of GBV to a one-dimension, individual experience. By looking at the codes as indicators of a broader theme, experienced across victim/survivor narratives, I was able to bring forth a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the nature of GBV perpetration at Downtown University.</p>
	<p>I've got 3 or so weeks to complete this draft of my DRP. I am noticing some resistance in exploring the victim/survivor narratives in greater depth... I wonder if I am reaching my threshold in processing trauma? I have mapped out my writing process to account for days off and time away from writing; I wonder if it will be enough?</p>
3/26/21	75 echoes my own experience
3/28/21	<p>What other intersections of data can I bring into initial visuals to help me establish the foundation of the codes, their intersections, and the resulting themes? Evaluate for alignment with research questions, institutional power (maybe with victim impact)... Maybe I pull back and include less? Provide a note that assessing for behavior-specific items is a part of creating a prevention curriculum and shouldn't be left out?</p>

Appendix D: Relevant Post Transcriptions and Annotations

Instagram Post Number (#)	Post Content	Codes	Post Notes
4	<p>On New Years Eve I got blackout drunk at the apartment of someone I was dating. I woke up in their bed the next morning without any of my clothes on and there were a couple of marks on my body that made it clear that something sexual had happened between us. The last thing I remember from the night before is being asked whether I wanted take my shirt of and saying yes. I do not know what happened, exactly, and it has been really difficult to come to terms with the fact that I won't ever know exactly what happened.</p>	<p>DFSA, GN perp, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, VS impact</p>	
5	<p>Two years ago, I got a tinder for the first time and met up with an RA while I was pretty drunk. I distinctly remember saying yes to him having sex with me and then put his dick in my ass. <u>However, I wasn't moving and was just laying there. I wasn't responding or saying anything. Just laying there almost sleeping.</u> It took me a really long time to realize that this wasn't consensual, so I didn't report it. Now he is one of my classes and I have to see him twice a week and it feels like I am reliving it every time he talks.</p>	<p>Power-social, masc perp, DFSA, AC-shift, VS impact, unaware, DNR</p>	<p>There seems to be an element of self-centeredness - the V/S wasn't engaging in the sexual act, but the perpetrator continued. Entitlement? Narcissism?</p>

7	<p>I met this Downtown University guy off of tinder. He picked me up from my dorm and brought me to his house right of campus. He gave me a big cup of wine that I watched him pour. He then pressured me into chugging it. After which we started making out. Everything was fine we fuck for like a minute, and then he asked me to give him a blowjob, I was ok with it so I did, and then he forced my mouth all the way down, it hurt so I said I don't want to have sex more. He said, "I'm sure you do" and proceeded to force my mouth back on him. I then told him I was done and turned around and tried to sleep. He then pulled the covers off of me and started jerking off. I could barely contain my tears so I put on my clothes and hopped in an Uber. Practically running out the door. As soon as I got in the Uber I started crying.</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, pressure, force, not taking a no</p>	
8	<p>My freshman year at Downtown University I went to a guy's house to hang out as friends. He tried to get me to smoke but I said no. When his roommate got home he told me we had to go to his bedroom. My back was hurting so he offered to rub my shoulders. Next thing I knew he was kissing and touching me and on top of me and I just laid there frozen. He kept trying to get into my pants but I kept squirming away from him. <u>The next day when I texted him that I did not like what happened his response was "I was trying to help I know girls get horny when they're on their period."</u> I feel disgusted to this day. I didn't report it because I didn't think DU could do anything.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, power-relational. DFSA, AC-shift, not taking a no, VS impact, DNR</p>	<p>Entitlement? Narcissism?</p>

9	<p>When I was a freshman I went to a fraternity formal with a friend. We were up in the mountains for the weekend, and we shared a bed. I assumed because I had been dating one of his friends, he wouldn't try anything; I was wrong. I was drunk the next day and we went up to our room to change, my friend pushed me down on the bed and began kissing me. I told him that we would make our mutual friend, who I was with at the time, really sad. He said, "It's fine, you're overreacting." I didn't think I was taken advantage of until after the fact when I heard I wasn't the first girl this had happened to. It's hard to trust guy friends because of this incident, and I wish I would've said something to prevent this from happening for other women. I didn't think I had enough of a reason to talk to the school, so I didn't. Consent is sober!!!!</p>	<p>freshman, power-social, power-relational, masc perpetrator, DFSA, not taking a no, unaware, VS impact, force, CTA-names behavior, FSL</p>	<p>Along with not taking a no, there seems to be an element of the perpetrator not realizing what constitutes a no</p>
10	<p>During my freshman year I met a Downtown University student on Tinder. He invited me off to his apartment after about a week of talking, I agreed. We had consensual sex but afterwards when I was laying in bed he kept trying to touch me. Despite me saying no, he got on top of me and kept trying said "I know you want this...". I pushed him off and left. I brushed the situation off as nothing, but now realize what it was. Just because I consented to one thing doesn't mean I consented to the other.</p>	<p>Freshman, masc perpetrator, AC-shift, unaware, CTA-names behavior</p>	
11	<p>Freshman year I went to [Fraternity] and met this older boy. We were friends for a while as I was a virgin. One night we were watching a movie and playing video games, and went to sleep. I woke up to him</p>	<p>freshman, power-social, power-relational,</p>	

	<p>on top of me as he forced himself inside me and covered my mouth. I was very traumatized and we proceeded to have sex a different time (I wanted to gain control back) and he didn't stop when I said it was to painful and again covered my mouth. He was a tour guide and downtown university refused to put limitations on his building access so he always lurked around [residence hall].</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, SA, VS impact, not taking a no, power-institutional</p>	
12	<p>My freshman year I met a guy and we started to hang out a lot. We started to have sex occasionally and after that, every time we hung out, he wanted to have sex. After a few times, he started to pressure me into doing things I wasn't comfortable with. I tried telling him this but he always guilted me into doing it. Once I fell asleep in his dorm and I woke up to him putting his dick inside me. I didn't know what to do. I pretend to still be asleep and I rolled away from him. After that, I stopped sleeping with him and would only see him in groups. He became an RA the next year and then went on to become a president of a frat. It took me two years to finally admit what happened to me. Even now, only one of my friends knows what happened and who it was. He's one of the most popular guys on campus and everyone talks about how nice and such a good guy he is. Every time I see him or a picture of him I wanna throw up.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, pressure, not taking a no, SA, power-social, VS impact, power-relational, FSL</p>	
13	<p>My freshman year I met a Downtown University guy off grindr. He texted me to come over after I was at some party. I was tipsy, but by no means drunk. When I got to his apartment we smoked a bit and I told</p>	<p>freshman, LGBTQ, masc perpetrator, DFSA, not</p>	

	<p>him I was tired and was just going to sleep if that was alright. Instead he forced me to blow him and he started fingering me extremely aggressively saying “I know you like it like this” as I cried. Never really wanted to share because I just wanted to move past it.</p>	<p>taking a no, force, VS impact</p>	
14	<p>Last year I was in [residence hall] and my friends and I went out to a party. I met one of my friends and walked back together. He took another route and showed his penis to me. I was so confused and he kept following me in the dark as I tried to walk away. I think we came back to my room and the next thing I know is that he tries to have sex with me but then he gets a phone call and leaves. I was so scared and I never see him anymore. Thank god.</p>	<p>Power-relational, masc perpetrator, HA, SA, VS impact</p>	
15	<p>My first year, I became friends with a kid down the hall who had a girlfriend out of state. One day he approached me asking if I would wanna be friend with benefits cause his girlfriend was okay with it. I declined. Then one night I got a little too intoxicated so my friends, who were leaving [residence hall], put me in his room with another girl. He proceeded to push the other girl out of the room and started kissing me. He kept forcing himself onto me so I tried to leave. I finally got out but...before I made it back to my room he grabbed my wrist and pulled me back into his room. He kept forcing himself on me and the only reason I got out was because his roommate came home and saw me on the ground. The next day he threatened me and said I wasn’t allowed to tell anyone. Him and his new girlfriend still harass me</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, masc perpetrator, not taking no, DFSA, force, HA</p>	

	<p>on campus. They've threatened my friends and have dumped drinks on me in bars.</p>		
16	<p>When I was a junior I went to a party at Downtown University with a group of friends. I don't remember anything from that night but I woke up by myself the next morning with all of my clothes ripped to shreds on the floor. I was in pain, bleeding from my vagina and my nipples, and had no idea what had happened. The only reason I know who did it was because my housemate saw the person leave. I spent a week wearing bandaids over my nipples and a lot longer blaming myself for everything that went down.</p>	<p>SA, VS impact, potential DF, GN perpetrator</p>	
17	<p>I was sexually assaulted in spring of 2019. I have never felt safe since. It was day time, I was on the phone with my mom. He came up behind me and assaulted me. I had no control or strength, my mom had to hear the whole thing. It went to trial. I got the justice I needed, I was lucky. Every time I get a notification on my phone I am afraid to look knowing it could be a reminder of what happen to me, or something that has happened to someone else. The worst part of the situation is that the man who assaulted me was staying in the halfway house a block from campus. Downtown University has never and will never disclose the facts that the halfway house existence just a block off our campus.</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, SA, VS impact, power- institutional</p>	

18	<p>It was kind of a friend. A house that always threw parties. One night I saw him at redfords and I wasn't that interested but I was drunk enough and thought might as well try something new having never really had one night stands. There was a familiarity and a sense of trust with him being friends with so many people I trusted. We went back to his place in [residence hall] and had consensual sex. And as I tried to go to bed and say I'm tired etc. He put himself inside me and after multiple positions all of which were me just rag dolled being put into those positions and because I was so not wet anymore he suggested his shower where I ended up getting a bruise on my forehead from how hard he was pushing against me. At the time I thought it was a bad one night stand. But a year later when my boyfriend at the time asked me if I had ever experienced sexual assault I told him this story and how it made me feel really weird. I then saw some friends at my sports practice and one asked me what was wrong and I just started crying and panicking that I had been raped a year ago and didn't even realize. The word rape is really loaded so thank god for Downtown University's counseling services because therapy really helped me realize that this incident doesn't define me and I have power over my voice and I have a choice. They guy left Downtown University after that year – again thank god. My therapist at the time at Downtown University did offer to keep us apart if he was still there. I don't even remember his name anymore...</p>	<p>Power-relational, masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC-shift, unaware, VS impact</p>	<p>Individual domain</p>
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19	<p>One week I was out with my friends at a party and ended up meeting with a guy. The whole night I just stayed with my friends and him but he constantly was wanting to leave and trying to get me to go with. At some point I lost my friends and told the guy that I would leave after I found them and made sure they were good after a few minutes I couldn't find them so I just left with him. Eventually me and him leave and go back to the dorms where I let him spend night cause I had my roommate in my room and knew nothing was going to happen. In the middle of the night I wake up to his hands in my pants and I tried to fall back asleep and act like it wasn't happening but he wouldn't stop. I eventually stopped him and he left later in the morning.</p>	Masc perpetrator, AC- unable to confirm, AC- shift, SA	
20 (begin cover photos)	<p>Freshman year I went to a party at Lambda with my friends and drank a lot. All of my friends went to hook up with guys and I was pressured to do the same. I don't remember the guy's name, I wasn't even attracted to him. We made out and he pulled so hard on my lip with his teeth that I bled. I told him repeatedly that I didn't want to have sex, so he guilted me into a blow job. He forced himself so hard into my mouth that I was crying as it was happening...I spent the night because I didn't want to walk back along at night. I woke up and he tried to have sex with me and I said no. When I left I looked in the mirror and it looked like I had gotten punched in the mouth because he had been so rough.</p>	freshman, power-social, masc perpetrator, pressure, not taking a no, force, AC- unable to confirm	

21	<p>I went to a [Fraternity] date party with a kid that was a friend of my friends date, but I didn't really know. After, I went back to his apartment with a group of friends. I was extremely drunk, went to the bathroom, and when I came out everyone was gone besides my date. He asked if I wanted to lay in bed and I explicitly told him I was too drunk and tired to hook up, I was gonna walk back to my dorm. He told me he understood but I shouldn't walk back alone it was dangerous, I could just crash at his place tonight. I had made myself clear in regards to hooking up, and he seemed like a nice genuine dude, so I agreed. We went to bed with nothing happening, but only a few minutes after falling asleep I woke up to him in only his underwear on top of me, ripping my underwear off (I was in a dress). I told him "I'm too drunk for this" but he said "it's okay" and held me down. After a minute or so of me crying and struggling to get him off me, I managed to get out from underneath him. I left half my belongings there, only grabbing my phone before running out of the apartment.</p>	<p>Power-social, masc perpetrator, DFSA, not taking a no, force, AC-shift, AC-unable to confirm</p>	
22	<p>Two years ago, I took a seminar class where I met three seniors. They invited me to go swimming at one girl's house and I ended up getting pretty drunk due to the hot tub and activity. One boy offered to drive me back since he was sober. I tried to leave him in the [residence hall] circle but he followed me upstairs and forced himself into my room. He got on top of me and tried to force himself on me. My suite-mate was woken up by the noise and knocked on</p>	<p>Power-social, DFSA, masc perpetrator, force, unaware</p>	

	<p>my door to see if I was home. He got freaked out and ran out past her and I never told her what she saved me from. It wasn't for a long time that I realized what had actually happened to me. I hope that one day I'll be able to tell my suite-mate how much she changed my life.</p>		
23	<p>My freshman year I was in a relationship. I was always scared of intimacy as a result of my lack of confidence in my body. He was a very outwardly sweet guy who made me feel beautiful and wanted. But he would push for sexual acts even when I didn't want to. I would say no repeatedly but he would do things that made me very uncomfortable. He would touch and push his dick against me when I didn't want to. Penetration never happened unconsensually but as time passes I realize that this was sexual assault. People always say that it's not assault unless you were penetrated, but assault is valid as long as one party says no. It took me a while to understand this because I trusted him deeply. I am even more scared of intimacy after this and I'm still working towards being vulnerable to future partners and with myself. I want to share my story to let people know that their stories are valid no matter what form it comes in.</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, masc perpetrator, pressure, not taking a no, unaware, SA, VS impact</p>	
24	<p>Fall quarter 2019 a freshman boy and I left the bar together. He took me to his truck and we hooked up. It was consensual at first, but quickly became painful. I kept asking him to stop doing certain things and 5 minutes later he would do that thing again. He was very persuasive and pushy, but eventually I got out and left. My vagina</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, AC-shift, not taking a no, pressure, force, VS impact, CTA-</p>	

	<p>was bleeding from his fingering me and my boobs had painful scratch marks and bite marks...I got back, so confused about what had just happened to me. I showered like three times because I felt so disgusting. I didn't know how to process what happened because I have heard so many worst stories of sexual assault. I know for a fact that this has happened to other girls. We all have the same story. We have been taken to his truck and assaulted. I never told anyone besides close friends and I don't know if anyone else has but I hope that if this has happened to you, you know you are not alone. How is it that we live in a world where a boy can get away with this multiple times?</p>	<p>response, SA</p>	
<p>25</p>	<p>A couple weeks into my doctoral program in the Fall of 2015, I was walking back to my car parked at Observatory Park and saw a guy get on top of a sunbathing woman. At first I thought they knew each other, but then she squirmed and screamed for help. I approached them and asked if she was ok. She was not. She said something like... "I don't know him and he just got on top of me!" He ran away immediately and she told me he got on her and started grinding on her. She told me she was a Freshman who just moved here. I called the cops and stayed with her while they came. She was crying and repeating the same thoughts, like, "I said no." I gave the cops my story and described the guy. They were aware of him. He had done similar to a handful of Downtown University students in the area. They said they'd contact me, but never did. I don't know what happened.</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, secondary survivor, SA, freshman, power-institutional, VS impact</p>	

26	<p>I used to be friends with lots of [Fraternity members] all through freshman year. I became really close with one coming into sophomore year, until one night I went to a party with him and remembered nothing after arriving at the party and having a drink. The next morning, I woke up sideways on my bed with no covers, still in the shirt from the night before but my jeans and underwear were around my ankles. I didn't report it, and I even felt ashamed and dirty because I couldn't remember whether I said yes or not, but then I realized that I was way too intoxicated to consent. Plus, I had no feelings or attraction to the guy, I was involved with someone else. This was a guy I considered a friend who I thought I could trust and wouldn't take advantage of me. Now, I keep my head down walking to classes, I don't go out, and I feel like I can't trust anyone.</p>	<p>power-social, masc perpetrator, DFSA, power-relational, VS impact, DNR, AC-unable to confirm, FSL</p>	
27	<p>Okay so freshman year one of my guy friends walked me home after the bars and I was telling him about a bad hook up experience that I had a few weeks earlier. He was very aware that I was upset. When we got back to my dorm room my roommate wasn't there and we talked for a little bit before he leaned in to kiss me. I was fine with kissing him but then he got on top of me and asked if we could have sex...I said no. He continued to kiss my neck and grind up on me and asked again in a few minutes if we could have sex. I said I didn't want to and this cycle continued for a little bit until I felt pressured to say yes since he didn't stop asking or grinding on me. He told me he</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, masc perpetrator, AC-shift, not taking a no, pressure, SA, VS impact</p>	

	had wanted to do this for a long time and then I dissociated. After he finished I cried and he got mad that my eyes glazed over and “it was like having sex with a dead person.”		
28	During my first year at Downtown University a kid on my floor invited me to his room. We were drinking whiskey and he kept pressuring me to drink more than I felt comfortable with. Then we started kissing and I was enjoying that. He tried to take off my shirt and I told him no. As soon as I said no it seemed like something snapped and he got SO angry. He got on top of me and was kissing me really aggressively while grabbing my boobs. The next day I confronted him about it, because I was just so confused about why that happened. He told me that people don’t tell him no and he knew I wanted a guy who could take charge.	freshman, masc perpetrator, DFSA, pressure, AC-shift, not taking a no	
29	I had gone to [Fraternity]’s champagne and shackles that night. I blacked out right about when the bottle was almost empty. Black out black out. I don’t remember anything from that point, still zip tied to my date, until I wake back up in the parking lot being the bar in the back of a car with a man over me. Everything is a little fuzzy and I don’t even reconcile his face. I’m screaming and crying. I black out again. Next thing I know I’m on the phone crying in the middle of the alley with my dress half off at 3 in the morning. The worst part about it is that everything is fuzzy. It’s traumatizing.	power-social?, DFSA, masc perpetrator, VS impact, AC- unable to confirm	

30	<p>During halloween my freshman year, I got separated from my friend as the bars were kicking everyone out. My phone was nearly dead. A guy at the bar saw me looking around for my friend, and noticed i was anxious. He told me that he lived right around the corner and had a golden retriever puppy, and that I could come over, charge my phone, warm up, and find my friend. I thanked him, and we walked to his apartment. As soon as I crossed the threshold, I noticed an empty dog crate... there was no dog. I asked where his dog was, and he said that he was at training camp. I remember the feeling of my stomach violently dropping, and then he was raping me. I froze in shock. Afterwards, he told me that I couldn't leave because I was too drunk and campo would send me to detox if I tried walking home. His roommate noticed I was upset, and he said I could have his bed for the night. He showed me where it was, and once I got under the covers, he got in bed too, and assaulted me. I froze again. Terrified, as he had his way with my limp body. I woke up three hours later with my heart pounding in my chest, and sprinted out of there. I reported it later that week, but they were both found innocent. Word spread to a fraternity, and they publicly ridiculed me for it...They called me a slut, a bitch, and a liability for "having drunk sex and calling it rape." I reported all of the backlash to the school, constantly meeting with administration, and even having my parents visit with the chancellor. That happened in November, 2013. As an alumni barely making ends meet while</p>	freshman, masc perpetrator, SA, AC-shift, power-social, power-institutional, VS impact, did report, FSL	
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	<p>recovering from PTSD, I am furious that Downtown University has done nothing, despite countless pleas for help from their students.</p>		
31	<p>This pertains more to gender violence but I was in a domestically abusive relationship for 3 years, for 2 of them he was physically abusive. I didn't realize what he was doing was wrong till I came out to my family at the beginning of my freshman year. I was being gaslighted and for the longest time I blamed myself because he said I had provoked him. He almost killed me on multiple occasions and I filed against him to have my case not even make it to trial even with multiple forms of documentation of him admitting everything. He goes to Downtown University and still sometimes updates threatening Instagram bios to manipulate me which my friends check on to protect me. He's in student government, he's a [Fraternity] member, and so many people think he's a great person. I feel guilty sometimes for not name dropping because I don't want anyone ever to go through what I went through, but I also fear his vengeance and not finding peace. Some days I have really huge fears of him coming for me, or even dating again because he said he would go after whoever</p>	<p>DV, unaware, masc perpetrator. freshman, power-institutional, power-social, VS impact, CTA-response, FSL</p>	

	I dated. It's really hard being on the same campus as your abuser and I think it goes to show how much more we need to improve as a society to protect survivors...		
32	Freshman year, I went to a [Fraternity] party with my roommate and friends. My roommate got a drink from somewhere and couldn't finish it, so I took the rest of it. I ended up getting separated from my group and saw a guy that I was in my FSEM with. He was talking about how he had wanted to get with me for a while and I was so confused, so I kept diverting the conversation back to a paper we had due...Next thing I know, he's pinning my wrists above my head against a wall and saying things like "it's funny how you think you can get away." I could barely move or speak. I couldn't even believe what was going on. Two girls eventually stepped in and I got home ok. My roommate later came to me and said that she thought someone had put Xanax in the drink or something. It was so crowded at that party but only three people thought to intervene. Things like this just change you.	freshman, DFSA, masc perpetrator, power-relational, not taking a no, VS impact	
33	It was 2nd quarter of my freshman year. 2019. Met this guy at the bar, he had an eye for me, I'd never seen him before. He took me back to the ZBT house and what I thought was going to be casual sex turned into him pinning me down, be extremely	Freshman, masc perpetrator, power-social, SA, AC-shift,	

	<p>rough and wouldn't stop when I said stop. After it was over I was too afraid to move or say anything...I thought if I pretended to sleep it would just be morning soon. He kept forcing my hand while I was 'sleeping' and I said I was going to just go home. He got really defensive and told me to stay. In the morning he took me home and acted like everything was okay. I didn't say a word, I was disgusted. I didn't realize the magnitude of what happened until later. It still stays with me today and always will. It's not okay and you're not alone.</p>	<p>not taking a no, VS impact, unaware, CTA-names behavior, CTA-response, FSL</p>	
34	<p>After having a blind date with a guy in my residence hall freshman year, I went to his floor to pregame for later parties. I woke up alone in my room the next morning with no memory of going out, or of coming back to his room and having sex. I had no idea what happened until the next day when he asked for round two. He claims that he had no idea I was blacked out.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, freshman, DFSA, no idea, AC-unable to confirm</p>	
35	<p>My first year at downtown university I went out for Halloween and got really drunk at a frat party. I remember walking to the bars and into border with my friends. I don't remember anything until I woke up, not knowing where I was/whose bed I was in. My dress from the night before was halfway off my body and I was not wearing any underwear, I realized my vagina hurt badly...I realized I was in a different dorm next to a guy who I had some mutual friends with. He had just woken up and wasn't wearing any clothes. I got up and said I had to go, he was fine with it. I went to the bathroom that was on</p>	<p>DFSA, freshman, masc perpetrator, DNR, power-social, VS impact, AC-unable to confirm</p>	

	<p>his floor and saw that my vagina was bleeding...After getting ahold of his number, I texted him later asking what happened, and he said we were both drunk and just fell asleep. I knew that wasn't true because my vagina bled for 3 days after and hurt for a week, but I wanted to forget about it so I didn't say anything...I still don't really know what happened, I just told my friends that we were super fucked up and hooked up. I know I shouldn't have gotten that drunk and everyone says he is such a nice guy, so I try to think it was nothing but even now, a year later, whenever I think about what happened I feel disgusting and embarrassed.</p>		
36	<p>Around the 3rd week of my freshman year at Downtown University I started hooking up with a sophomore. During our 4th time hooking up (all had been consensual up to that point), I noticed about halfway through that he wasn't wearing a condom and I clearly remembered him putting one on..I pushed him off of me and asked him where the condom was and he tried to convince me that I told him to take it off and I was so drunk that I didn't remember. I was drunk but not nearly enough that I would forget that or that I would do that as I never have sex without one...I felt extremely violated and told him to leave but he refused and insisted on sleeping over. I eventually gave in and didn't sleep at all because I felt so angry and violated and he wouldn't stop pushing his dick up against me the whole night. While I know this could have been a lot worse I wanted to share because I know this has happened to</p>	<p>Freshman, power-relational, AC-shift, SA, VS impact, not taking a no, CTA-perp, CTA, names behavior</p>	

	<p>many girls and so many people don't understand that taking off a condom without permission from both parties is assault. I consented to SAFE sex.</p>		
37	<p>I was heavily drinking and smoking with a friend one night. The night ends and she went to bed in my absent roommate's place upstairs. Then about an hour later I get a message from a guy who I liked. He said he wanted to come over to chat and smoke...I invited him over thinking that we'd just chat. I just wanted to finish my drink for the night and go to sleep. He kept putting more alcohol into my drink until I was near blackout. Which is when he took me to my room "to put me to bed" and proceeded to hold me down and rape me. I felt frozen, useless, and ashamed the whole time. I woke up with my asshole bleeding. I told my parents hoping that they could help me figure out how to do something about it. When instead they told me it's my fault for acting that way, it was bound to happen to me since I'm gay, and that it's my fault it happened to me for not being careful enough.</p>	<p>DFSAs, male perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift, pressure, VS impact, did report, LGBTQ, victim blame</p>	
38	<p>I was in a relationship freshman year. She seemed like a very sweet, caring girl, but I was often pressured into sexual acts that I was uncomfortable with. She would share intimate details between us with her friends. These friends would criticize me based on what she told them and attempt to pressure me into more acts that I wasn't</p>	<p>freshman, female perpetrator, pressure, coercion, trust, didn't realize it counted, SA</p>	

	<p>okay with. I also remember an instance when she initiated sexual acts while I had been asleep. After more time goes by and reading these other posts, I realize that this relationship was all sexual assault. I was in denial for a while because I thought I had trust in this person.</p>		
39	<p>My Freshman year, I was being stalked by another student. He was entering my dorm room when I wasn't there (my roommate frequently didn't lock the door when she left). One time he left beer, and drugs on my bed. He also made comments about wanting to take pictures of me in my underwear...He would wait outside of my classes for me even though he didn't have any classes at that time of near there. The list of creepy things he was doing and saying to me goes on and on. What's really important was I spoke to the RD in [residence hall] and some other person who's title I'm forgetting...They straight up asked me if I was doing anything to lead him on, and if I was interested in him and asked me other inappropriate questions like why he even started approaching me in the first place. I even had texts that he sent me in which he stated he was on drugs and another text that stated, "I moved away from my dorm because I was afraid I was going to hurt you." They then proceeded to tell me that they couldn't help me because he hadn't actually done anything to me yet. Which I essentially translated to when he does finally physically sexually assault you then come back to us. Stalking is sexual assault and Downtown University does not</p>	<p>freshman, mas perpetrator, ST, did report, power-institutional, victim blame, CTA-names behavior, CTA-names behavior, CTA-university</p>	<p>Institution as perpetrator? Named in the call to action</p>

	care. Thank you guys for sharing these stories and taking initiative.		
40	I met his one boy last year at Downtown University and he would sext me saying he wanted blow jobs and wanted to fuck me so hard that I wouldn't be able to walk. He would send me explicit videos. He was a friend of mine, but every time we talked, he always talked about having sex with me in weird ways...He would grab my boobs and thigh even though I said No. He would call me a bitch and other names because I refused to do anything with him. The words used by him disgusted me and I don't want to think about it, but it's hard for me.	Freshman, power-relational, AC-shift, SA, VS impact, not taking a no,	
41	It was my freshman year and two days before my nineteenth birthday. I was sexually assaulted and that's how I lost my virginity. I asked him to stop and he kept going. He left right after to hang out with his friends and I immediately ran out of his room and cried in the shower surrounded by blood. I never processed what happened and thought being in back to back relationships would make the pain go away. But I got into an abusive relationship months after, where I was hurt in every form and got my life taken away from me. It took a long time to recover and get it	freshman, masc perpetrator, SA, force, DV, VS impact	

	<p>back..but now I have my world back and more. I finally have hope for the future instead of feeling like I'm dying everyday. I still struggle with trust issues with men. I fully believe I am all I have at the end of the day and the only person that I can 100% love and trust is me. No one else. I'm the only person who can fight my battles and defend myself. I don't anyone else to take care of me, because I take care of myself. And I refuse to let anyone in the way I used to again, because I don't want to risk my body being abused again.</p>		
43	<p>I ran into a friend at [a bar] that I usually felt safe with and had known for a while. At the bar he suggested we go back to my dorm to hang out. Once we were there we started kissing and I pulled away and said I didn't want to have sex. He said it was fine and we kept making out, but he would put his hand up my shirt and down my pants and I repeatedly said I didn't want to have sex. Eventually he had his pants off and pressured me to keep going. He asked why I would bring him back to my room in the first place if it wasn't for sex. I was drunk and unsure of what to do, but I ended up letting him do what he wanted. I fell asleep and after a while he got on top of me again, and I woke up to him inside me without a condom. Afterwards I felt disgusting, but I didn't realize how wrong it was. Over the past couple years, other girls told me that he pressured them into sex while they were drunk. Even now, I have no idea what I can do to help them or stop him.</p>	<p>power-relational, masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC-shift, AC-unable to confirm, unaware, VS impact, CTA-response</p>	

44	<p>During my freshman year at Downtown University, I went to a party with some friends. I got sorta drunk and the next thing I know a boy is leading me up to a room in another part of the house. I said no to everything and that I was tired and didn't want to do anything.....but I must have fallen asleep because the next thing I remember when I woke up was him on top of me, forcing himself on me. I was able to shake him off, so nothing beyond that happened, but I left completely traumatized. I found out later that my friends had left early but they knew the guy who was leading me away from the party. They were completely pissed when they found out what he did. I haven't been to a party since and I'm afraid to be vulnerable with people now.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC- unable to confirm, VS impact, power- relational, not taking a no</p>	
45	<p>My first quarter at Downtown University, I drunkenly went home from a party with a guy I liked. We made out and I may have given him oral, but I declined when he asked if we could have penetrative sex (I had not been penetrated before and I didn't want that to be my first time). He kicked me out of his room--it was 2AM. I lived on the other side of campus, and I had to walk back to my dorm alone. This was not assault but it was one of many instances that taught me that I would have to say yes to sexual activity if I wanted men to treat me with respect. Years later, when I was assaulted I didn't see it as an assault at first because I was pressured and said yes to something I didn't really want. It has taken me a long time to reprogram my brain to</p>	<p>freshman, DFSA, masc perpetrator, power- relational, pressure, not taking a no, VS impact</p>	<p>This is an example of a student connecting the expectation of sex to value or social/relationship value. Perhaps an example for the relational level intersecting with the individual level (didn't realize bc they said yes after being pressured)</p>

	believe that I deserve respect regardless of my sexual contribution to a relationship.		
46	I went to a party thrown by my own fraternity last spring; I was just stopping by to say hi to friends I had been too busy to see for the past couple months. I had a drink; I woke up in a hospital and my blood tested positive for rohypnol/benzodiazepine. Being a white male, I never thought something like this could happen to me. I don't know if it was as meant for me: I do know that I will never forget the shame and anxiety that comes from waking up and not knowing what I had done and or what happened to me. Someone exerted control over my body and it will take years to be comfortable being myself again.	DFSA, V/S impact, power-social, FSL	VS explicitly named element of power
47	My freshman year at Downtown University I got pretty drunk and ended up off campus with my friends. It was getting to be about 3 in the morning and I didn't want to walk all the way back to [residence hall]. One of the juniors I was with said I could stay at his house because his couch was free. I was tired and said yes. We get to his house and he says that someone was sleeping on his couch so we had to share his bed. I get to his bedroom and he told me I could sleep naked if I felt like it. I told him no. Meanwhile he kept touching me and I kept asking him to stop. He then tried to force me to drink water by his bed I kept saying	freshman, DFHA, power-social, AC-shift, force, not taking a no, masc perpetrator	

	<p>no. I got up to leave and he grabbed me and wouldn't let me go. I shoved him off me and I ran to the door. On my way out I saw there was nobody sleeping on the couch. He then followed me all the way back to my dorm, still groping me and asking to spend the night in my dorm. The whole walk back he kept saying that I shouldn't walk at night by myself because there were people that wanted to rape and harm me. I know it's not rape but I didn't consent to any of what happened that night.</p>		
48	<p>Freshman year, I was at border dancing with a senior guy and we decided to go back to my room. When we got back, he immediately started kissing me and taking my clothes off. When we started to have sex, it became very rough and painful. He asked me if I was okay and I responded saying it hurt a lot and I thought we needed to stop. He did not stop and I felt helpless underneath the weight of his body. When it was over, he tried to sleep in my bed, but I told him my roommate was coming back to get him to leave. The constant bleeding and the ache in my pelvis was a constant reminder of what had happened for the next week. For the next several months I became nervous anytime a man was close to me I would constantly see him at border and I would become very anxious. I am just so thankful that he was a senior and I don't have to see him anymore</p>	<p>Freshman, power-social, masc perpetrator, AC-shift, SA, VS impact</p>	<p>social power section</p>

49	<p>I was at a friend's place in [residence hall] the other night. Eventually, around midnight, I decided to leave and go back to [residence hall], where I live. As I was about to leave, she said that one of her friends who was watching a movie or something in the next room, needs to go to [residence hall] and asked me if I could walk her. I said yes. And so her friend and I started walking from [residence hall] to the other end of campus. As we were passing [restaurant] a car whizzed past us and the men in the car looked at my companion and yelled "Show me that pussy, girl!" And then they saw me so they apologized...to me. I was startled and even though she asked me not to worry and told me this was an insignificant incident that happens all the time, I still cannot stop thinking about it. As a cis-man I have never been catcalled neither had I heard someone being catcalled until that incident. It terrifies me, as a man, to think about the kind of unquestioning sexual power and privilege that we have enabled in men as a society. It terrifies me to think that acts like this are so normalized that the girl who was with me did not even think it was out of ordinary. This scares and disheartens me even to this day.</p>	power-social, power-relational, secondary survivor, HA, masc perpetrator	post speaks directly to experience of a masculine person not realizing impact of GBV, social system, social power
50	<p>One night when I was out at a bar, a girl that I kind of knew came up to me and tried to make out with me. I wasn't interested and told her so but she was pretty drunk and she continued to try and grind on me and feel up my crotch, my ass and kept trying to kiss me. Multiple people, both guys and girls, saw what was</p>	fem perpetrator, not taking a no, SA, power-social	post speaks to nature of gender socialization and expectations; societal impact on GBV

	<p>happening and didn't say or do anything (since they assumed that as a guy, I was wanting it). She eventually put her arms around my neck and tried to kiss me again. She managed to give me a hickey. I didn't try and force her off of me because she was really drunk and I didn't want to hurt her or make a scene. It eventually took three people to pull her off of me. I used to share that story with my friends and it would get some laughs and I would just laugh along too. This year though, I went and saw a therapist and shared my story and my therapist was the first to tell me and call the incident that happened a sexual assault. Nevertheless, given the gender roles of our society, I struggle seeing myself as a victim, even though that incident impacts my life everyday.</p>		
51	<p>I was assaulted and raped within the first few months I was at DU. The first was almost identical to another post on this page which inspired me to speak out because I know it was the same person. He had a girlfriend away from Downtown University and approached me about an open relationship, since I was dating someone else I declined but he pushed until I had no choice but to accept. I didn't know how to say no without making him upset and not want to be friends. One night he walked me home for a PiKap party after his own [Fraternity] party and I told him he was too drunk to walk back to his dorm to make sure he didn't get hurt but he took that differently. He agreed and stripped off all of his clothes and jumped into bed which I thought was weird. Soon after he</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, power-social, force, not taking no, AC-shift, AC-unable to confirm, victim blame, HA, VS impact, CTA-response, masc perpetrator, FSL</p>	<p>example of social power within organizations</p>

was on top of me, I remember being so close to blacking out and falling in and out of sleep. I said yes to him because I was alone and didn't want to make things worse but I prayed he would stop before sex. He did but I was assaulted. Even though we had Sexual Assault Training the week before I was sexually assaulted in my own bed on campus. I had bruises covering my body and my vagina bled for a week. My throat hurt from being forced to give head. His girlfriend wasn't in an open relationship with him and my boyfriend broke up with me when I called him crying for help the next morning yelling cheater at me through the line. Another [Fraternity] boy found out and gaslighted me into a rape relationship where we had sex that way he claimed, he wouldn't tell my friends or boyfriend about the first assault. I was gaslighted for months and even told that I used him for sex when I eventually realized my assault and broke off things with him. However, he chased after my other friends telling them about our sex and how he wanted to date me. Now both boys have me banned from [Fraternity], berate me whenever I go out, and continue to attack me and my friends with rumors, lies, and hate. My best friends hang out with my rapist. And I have PTSD now as a result and can't hang out with them or spend much time on campus. I wish I spoke out sooner but I have been so afraid of what people may say but I survived assault and months of rape and the people who did it deserve to be exposed. Don't ever let someone gaslight you into deceit.

52	<p>Sophomore year, I went to Lambda's spring formal with one of my good friends. I wanted to because one of my girl friends was going and I told him I'd go if he couldn't find a date. I never thought saw him as a potential sexual partner. The first night, everyone was drinking really heavy. I remember at one point, I was in our room and one of his fraternity brothers followed me and shut the door behind him. I told him I was drunk and didn't need another shot and he pressured me into taking one saying "no one will know if the door is closed" I continued drinking throughout the night and ended up blacking out. According to my girl friend I was with, I was dancing in my underwear and she went to put me to bed. She got ahold of the guy I went with and told him that I was really drunk and needed to go to bed. She left us two in the room and the next morning I woke up wearing just shorts with no underwear and my vagina hurt. My heart dropped and I asked if we had unprotected sex the night before and he told me "yeah, it's a shame you don't remember the good times that were had" I will never forget he said that to me. I went to the bathroom and immediately threw up (I have had stress pukes ever since this happened) I called my friend, told her that we had sex, and that I was not okay with it. I expressed nothing to him because we had the rest of the weekend in the same room together and I actually worried I would make things awkward. Once we got back to campus, my friend helped me contact the president of Lambda to tell him what had happened. He told her they would bring it up at chapter</p>	<p>power-relational. not taking a no, pressure, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA, Did report. power-institutional, VS impact, masc perpetrator, FSL</p>	
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and I never heard anything else about it. The next year, I was approached at parties as “the girl from the *** situation” by other fraternity members. I was forced to live a block away from my attacker the entirety of junior year. Still feeling distressed, I decided to reach out to the fraternity again myself. This was difficult because the president at the time had been in my FSEM and used to date my close friend. Regardless, I reached out and the response was that I had to go through title IX to report and that the fraternity couldn’t do anything. So I decided to go through with the reporting process. What was supposed to take only 60 days lasted 4 months. 4 months of me having to retell the same trauma multiple times a week. Having a private investigator call my closest friends asking them about my drinking/drug habits and sexual history. All of this to have Downtown University tell me the results were inconclusive so they couldn’t do anything. I lost friends, hope, desire to do anything. For one final blow, on my graduation day, they had my seating placed right next to my attacker. I had a panic attack on graduation day in front of my peers because Downtown University refuses to take these accounts seriously. As of now I hate even being near campus because I’m forced to be reminded of the two and a half years I was ignored.

53	<p>Most of my friends are in this one specific fraternity. I love the people in this fraternity. Except a few. When I was at their party during the second part of my first year, I was already a little tipsy. I was talking to some of the brothers in the fraternity. One kept talking which I didn't mind. My friends decided to call it a night and we left the party. Said fraternity brother joined us. He walked with us. He was holding on to me since I was falling at some point. He thought it was right to dead on kiss me there. I just turned away. He wanted me to return to his dorm but I refused. He nearly dragged me away from my friends. I kept screaming a friend's name and she came by. She took me by the arm and we ran. Our other friends were confused. When I told the others what happened, one of them didn't believe me. He made it seem like I wanted it. I did not. This said fraternity brother is still in said fraternity. Every time I want to hang out with brothers of said fraternity, he's there. I'm scared to be alone with him. Some brothers vowed to never leave me alone with him. I am grateful to those brothers and friends who believed me and helped me out.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, DFSA, power-social, force, VS impact, FSL</p>	
54	<p>My senior year I had slept with a guy who was friends with my roommate and other mutual friends, the first time was fully consensual. The second time it began consensually, until I was in pain. I began to push him back as he was inside of me but he kept going. I said "ow" "please stop" on multiple occasions. I even stopped and began to give him oral, just so he would</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, AC-shift. SA, not taking a no, VS impact</p>	

	<p>stop penetrating me, which ultimately lead me to feel more confused than ever about the nature of my assault. I'll never forget him saying "I'm not stopping until someone cums". Eventually it did end and he something about my "overly sensitive clit". I was so swollen that my vagina was unrecognizable and in serious pain for several days and it took me until my roommate confronted me about who I was with the night before to realize what had happened was not ok. On the day of my graduation, my family took me to dinner downtown and he was sitting in the booth next to me. I vomited in the bathroom. I still don't think he has any idea that I feel what happened between us was rape.</p>		
55	<p>I already posted the story of my assault on this page. However, I feel that I need to share this story as well. This account has really helped me move forward and start healing. So, I decided to report the boy who assaulted me to the school. This was roughly a week ago. It is terrifying and I'm proud to say that I did that. No one has bothered to reach out to me or anything of the sort. Shouldn't our school be dealing with this situation? It pains me that our school is doing nothing to help. I was vulnerable and shared my story with them....they have done nothing....and that makes me feel unsafe. They know who I am, they know who he is. This is not how a school should handle a report of sexual assault.</p>	<p>SA, masc perpetrator, power-institutional, VS impact, CTA-university</p>	

57	<p>Last quarter, one of the guys on the basketball team had offered me his jacket-I was barely drunk, just a little cold. We were separated when I went to back to my dorm and he went to the bar. After he was done he asked me to hang out- I didn't really want to but I knew this would give me an opportunity to give his jacket back. When I informed him that my roommate was sleeping, he insisted that we walk back to his place. We made the long walk back to his dorm and just talked. When we got there, he told me to sit on the bed and he went to turn off the lights. Almost immediately he started making out with me. Not even two minutes in, he asked me "are you going to get a condom or not?" Begrudgingly, I got one out, feeling as if I had no other choice. It was phrased as if the sex was inevitable, but the condom was my choice. He's also very tall and strong, which is intimidating. After he put the condom on, he began to be really rough and it hurt; when he finished, it was all over me, meaning there was no condom. When I asked him about it, he said "it must've fallen off." After getting dressed, we went into the other room to his bed (which is when I learned we were on his roommates bed). He said I could stay the night, but I decided I'd rather walk home alone at 4:30 am. I see him frequently, and months later, I still feel my heartbeat increase and I get a little nauseous.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, AC-shift, pressure, SA, VS impact</p>	
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59	<p>I met an older guy at an event at Downtown University and we were talking as a friend. He invited me to his place, but I refused to go and then he started sending threatening messages. I wanted to tell someone, but I got scared. I went to his house and he offered me to smoke, drink and go to his bathtub to have sex with him. I didn't drink, smoke or ate anything and told him that I have never done any of those activities before. He started talking about what he would do to me in bed. He made me feel uncomfortable and started touching my private parts and I tried to run. He kept telling me that nobody would believe my story and nothing will happen to him even if I report him. I have never talked about this incident and it is very difficult for me. I want everyone to feel safe on campus.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, HA, SA, power-social, VS impact</p>	
60	<p>I had this problem with a boy. While I prefer not to get into the details, I shared what happened during O week and many people made it clear that he was stalking me (I was in denial because I've never dealt with that before) I reported confidentially to two different people. Through the network of "confidentiality" he found out and now I've had several incidences in which he makes comments about me to my face and one instance when shoved past me to get into an elevator. I was told he wouldn't hear about the complaint. While I have been very patient dealing with his actions against me so far, I shouldn't have to be. Confidential should be confidential.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, ST, did report, power-institutional, unaware</p>	

61	<p>I woke up in a puddle of my own blood at a group of friend's place. I couldn't see out of my eye and later found out my jaw was broken when my tooth came out. My clothing was stained with semen. I asked my friends what had occurred because I was in shock & disbelief that they could have been involved. There has been no resolve to the incident. I decided to leave Downtown University because the terror haunted me. After leaving I lost my scholarship and received a tuition bill for the unfinished quarter, despite the fact that the university knew about the circumstances. When I asked them to consider the situation the employee told me she, "didn't care about my personal life and I wasn't entitled to the money I owed." Being assaulted is not a part of my personal life, especially when it occurred on campus and hearing the school tell me I was acting entitled after completely changing the direction of my life was heartbreaking. The only thing I felt entitled to was my safety and that was not provided.</p>	<p>power-social, power-relational, masc perpetrator, power-institutional, VS impact</p>	
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62	<p>#Profstoo Things I was asked during my faculty interview here at DU, mostly by a (future) colleague but allowed to happen over the course of three hours by my (future) Director. This is only limited to gender-baiting questions not also the race and class—based questions (also illegal) that they asked and/ or allowed: Are you bisexual? You look like Sophia Loren. Or wait, (insert female actress/ celebrity here). Did you get a nose job? Did you get a breast job? Have you had any surgeries, at all? (“I don't know, do colonoscopies count? We don't want to talk about this at dinner, do we?” They laugh, thinking it's for a “cleanse.” Sorry, no, it's because my genetics tell me I could get this type of cancer any given year! They refuse to believe me, after asking this question to begin with...) Do you want to go out to the back of this restaurant and have sex? Are you married? To a man? What does your husband do? How much does he make? Is he following you to this job? (yes) Are you sure he's willing to do that? (yes) Are you sure? (Yes. Would you ask this so many times of a male candidate with a female partner? “No, I guess not...”). Did he help you with your dissertation or translations for academic articles (He is not a professor...). Why do you tell your husband where you travel - is he afraid you'll have an affair? Speaking of your husband, how much did he pay for that wedding ring? What about your engagement ring? What is his line of work? You mean he only has his B.S. Do you think you married beneath yourself to not marry a professor? What's the worst thing</p>	staff, power-institutional, GN perpetrator	example of people in dominant positions exercising power over someone with clear power differential
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<p>your father did to you? Do you have any tattoos or piercings? No I mean where I can't see. Why are you wearing that shirt? Are you trying to show off your breasts? No really, what's the worst thing your father ever did to you? What breast size are you? Do you shave? Where do you shave I went to tech support and they helped me get past your password on the (personal) computer you brought for the interview. Do you want to explain your search history? Can I touch your hair? (Nope...) Will you be straightening your hair for this job? (Nope...) Are you "trans" What weight are you? What height are you? What size? Are you lying? (related, perhaps): Are you going to "deserve that dessert"? How much did you pay for that purse? Your jewelry? Glasses? What about your outfit? I don't think we can take seriously a candidate who didn't come wearing a suit tailored to them? Oh, what's a reasonable cost you say... hmm about \$300. (I was a graduate student...) Were you ever a "sugar baby?" What about S&M and polyamory? What can you explain about that? (Nothing to do with what I study, rhetoric and the Renaissance...) How attractive do you think you are? Ever gotten out of a speeding ticket? What about your "first time"? Tell me about your first time. Hey, how much do you remember from last night? (Then next morning).</p>		
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63	<p>Freshman year I got a bumble to meet people. I was excited and wanted to casually date. I met with a guy who said he went to DU. We met up for coffee and it was fine but I wasn't interested. I told him after the date I had a good time but didn't want to continue. He started sending me awful threats telling me I'd get kicked out of the school because his dad worked there, that he'd kill me, he'd hurt me and my friends/family, and much much worse that I won't type out. I tried to resolve this, but the next thing I knew he was stalking me and waiting outside of Sturm for me. I tried to confront him and then next thing I know he was sexually assaulting me. He threatened me into thinking that my friends and family were hurt and would send me pictures of guns and knives and would scare me into seeing him. He sexually assaulted me for 2 months. I reported it to DU, but they said they couldn't do anything because he was already released from the university for sexually assaulting another student. He had lied to me and said he was gone from the university because of a rugby accident, when in reality he was kicked out I also found out the school had a no trespassing order on him, yet he was always on campus. When I brought this up to DU, they didn't do anything about it. They issued a no trespassing order on this guy and couldn't even live up to that. They let rapists walk freely on campus and don't take victims seriously, even when the same guy raped multiple girls. DU's response to this was sickening, and they failed to keep their students safe even when they themselves filed an order against him.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, HA, ST, SA, power-social, power-institutional, CTA-university</p>	<p>Example of institutional failure; not exactly a call to action, but the V/S confronts the person/entity with power (by calling DU out/their failures)</p>
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64	<p>Last year I was hooking up with a guy who turned out to be extremely verbally abusive. We had a lot of consensual rough sex but even now I question how much of the violence during/after sex and foreplay were abuse as well. I never reported anything because I don't feel I have enough reason to, and I'm terrified of him finding out and knowing it was me. Now I can't help but feel a pit in my stomach when I read these posts and wonder if one of them is about him.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, DV, SA, power-relational, DNR, unaware, VS impact</p>	
65	<p>My story happened fall quarter 2018, and it took me more than a full year to recognize the severity of the situation. A boy I was not close to on my hall always used to invite my two close friends and I to his frat parties/pregames. We finally agreed to go to one of the pregames at his frat house and I believe I blacked around 10:30pm and I don't remember anything till 7:30am the next morning; everything I know about that night was told to me from a guy on my floor. Here is what I remember: I challenged the guy on my floor to go shot for shot with me and he tapped out first. After this a large group of guys living in the house, my friends, and other girls and I hung out for a while and talked. I specifically remember talking to the guy who later assaulted me and thinking he was nice. I know we had sex because I remember a flash of him naked but that's all. The next morning I had at least 3 texts from girls in my sorority asking if I was all right and being very worried about me. I remember getting these texts and wondering why they were freaking out but</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, DFSA, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, CTA response, FSL</p>	<p>other men tried to intervene but were unsuccessful, did not report; stopped short of confronting power</p>

looking back, it makes more sense. Here is what I was told about that night from the guy on my floor: I apparently went out of the house for a while to a bar with this guy, we were making out there, we came back to this frat house, at the frat house I fell down several flights of stairs, I was so incoherent it sounded like I was speaking Spanish, the guy at the time we had sex was sober, while he assaulted me 3 of the frat brothers were trying to get into his room to stop him because they knew how drunk I was and apparently after he raped me he slept on the couch outside his room all night while his friends were taking care of me giving me water and occasionally seeing if I was alive. Who knows what else happened to me in those 9 hours but that's all I got. I woke up that morning thinking I was in my bed but I did not recognize the wall and then I knew I was still at the frat house. My clothes were completely on, I got out of the bed and walked outside where the guy who assaulted me and his three friends were all sitting there wide awake and talking. They guy who assaulted me refused to make eye contact with me as the others asked how I was doing. I left the house alone and after a year I know that his guy is a serious predator, his friends are fucks for not reporting him even though they knew he raped (I do recognize they tried to stop this situation and for that I respect them) and my two friends at the time were horrible people for leaving me somewhere and not caring at all. Always make sure your friends are okay and shoutout to the frats that are actually taking these posts seriously I appreciate it.

66	<p>Hi so my freshman year I was really good friends with this one guy at the beginning. Fast forward a month or so and him and i and other people were casually drinking before going to bars. I didn't drink as much as him because i knew i was going home after the pregame. He was not that drunk at all for clarification. He walked me back home instead of going to bars. I offered to let him sleep in my dorm, while my roommate was asleep i might add. So we get back to my dorm and i say that he can sleep on the ground or we share a bed but i also said i trust him to the point that it'd be ok if we shared a bed. So we get in bed and I'm about to fall asleep but <u>he presses up against me like males do</u> and I'm like stop, no we're just friends. Also keep in mind my roommate is in the room, asleep. This goes on for awhile where we're slightly spooning thanks to the twin bed and he keeps trying to hook up with me and i just say no. Regardless of my constant request for him to stop he continues. Let's just say he's already in my pants and trying to go for it. I'm immobilized and just want this awkward moment to end. He's already been in me but my first concern is my roommate so i suggest we go to the bathroom for him to finish. We end the hookup there. I just wanted to get him out of my room. After i tell him I'm going to bed and he should leave. Weeks pass and i don't feel comfortable telling my friends. Finally one friend asks me about it and i tell her some details, and she asks, and i'll never forget "you know what that sounds like right?" I hadn't even realized what had happened. I was so used to being intimate</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, SA, power-relational, not taking a no, AC-shift, VS impact, CTA-response, CTA-university</p>	
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	<p>with people and trusting them that i never thought some shitty person who didn't think of my feelings, but only sex, would enter my life. I'm now much more weary of the boys i become emotionally intimate with, and i value talking with my friends about sex much more than before. Having a group of friends around you to help is amazing. I wish i went to a school that had better platforms for non consensual sex and where the consequences matched the circumstance. Downtown university needs to favor the victim. Even if it's a gray area. A gray consequence is better than no consequence.</p>		
68	<p>When I was a freshman, there was this older [Sorority] girl who thought I was cute and started dancing with me during a party, we ended up kissing at the party and I was into it because I thought she was cute too. Later that night after we went to the bars I was very drunk and ended up back at mine, I started getting very uncomfortable with the questions she was asking me and the things she was doing while we were both naked in bed before sex but for some reason I did it. I didn't think about it until now, but just because I was drunk and she was some older sorority girl I felt like I should be doing things with her. We had sex and it was impossible for me to get her out of my room and had to make up a story about a friend and leave my form room and it was an extremely <u>unfortunate situation that a guy can get into</u> and not know what to do because it isn't talked about enough.</p>	<p>freshman, fem perpetrator, DFSA, unaware, power-social, masc VS, FSL</p>	<p>VS notes that social expectations prevent men from seeking help/understanding their experience as assault. Negative impact of power and dominance on group who holds power/dominance</p>

69	<p>I dated a guy who goes to Downtown University for a little over a year. He was always extremely jealous and constantly accused me of cheating on him when I did nothing to make him not trust me. He demanded that I show him my texts with all of my friends and he tracked my location all of the time, and made me cut off several platonic relationships because he was so jealous. When he got drunk, he would scream in my face, and when I tried to diffuse the situation or even just walk away, he would become way more aggressive and I genuinely feared he would hurt me. He also knew that I am a survivor of sexual abuse and assault, and that I have been in intensive treatment for PTSD, yet he would constantly pressure me into having sex with him and when we didn't have sex, he would tell me he felt like I didn't care about him anymore. No matter how drunk I was, or how many times I turned him down, he would always end up coercing me into having very rough sex with him. I broke up with him at the end of September, and have struggled severely since then with panic attacks, flashbacks, and intrusive thoughts. I avoid many parts of campus for fear of seeing him. His fraternity brothers and friends who are in sororities are very hostile when they see me in public as well, and I know he must tell them that I'm in the wrong, because he has never even begun to apologize. I strongly believe that frat culture enabled him to become the monster that he is today. Lambda Chi Alpha and honestly all of the other fraternities at Downtown University are terrible and breed the worst kinds of</p>	<p>power-relational, masc perpetrator, DV, SA, pressure, VS impact, CTA-university, FSL</p>	
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	<p>people. The administration needs to acknowledge the toxicity of frat culture and do something about it.</p>		
70	<p>Seeing the stories on this page brought back memories I tried to forget about. I was reluctant to share my story, but #metoo. I was only in my first couple quarters here at Downtown University. After a terrible breakup with a guy I lost my virginity to, I felt extremely lonely. I hadn't made many friends here at Downtown University yet, so I welcomed any friendships I could. Typically, I get along better with men so I do have a lot of male friendships. I thought this would be a friendship, nothing more. But I was wrong. After building an Insta friendship with this Downtown University student, I decided it was safe to hang out. We had gotten to know each other, and there was no mention of anything romantic/sexual whatsoever. One day, after class, he picks me up and we go get food. He offers to come see his apartment (which was really fancy, paid for by his rich parents of course). Before proceeding to enter the apartment, things took a shocking turn when he said he wanted to show me something. He pulls out a gun... an actual gun. I was in shock,</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, force, SA, power-social, VS impact, DNR, masc perpetrator</p>	

	<p>wondering why he wanted to make it clear to me he owned this weapon. We then went inside, because I felt obligated to after seeing such a powerful object at his hands. After he goes to the bathroom, he pulls down his pants and forces me (yes, forces me) to suck his penis. When I try to pull away, he just continues, grabbing my head, nearly suffocating me. I saw stars and all I could think was he had the gun at his fingertips just in case I dared to do anything. More happened after that, to the point I had bruises all over my body, including wrapped around my neck. I thought I was going to die that day and all I wanted to do was report it. However, he had told me that nobody would believe me and it wouldn't matter because he's rich. A year later, I saw him while I was working at the bookstore. My blood went cold, and I immediately had a panic attack. But I don't even think he remembered me. I was just another one of his victims. I regret not trying to report him, because I know I wasn't the first. And I couldn't have been the last...</p>		
71	<p>I went on a date with this guy just one time in Jan. 2017. We didn't do anything more than a Goodnight kiss, because I was worried it would be rude not to. But that wasn't the problem... in the Fall of the same year, he started texting and calling me constantly. Leaving voicemails at 3 am telling me how much in love with me he was and that he wanted to see me. He didn't really know me at all and I couldn't understand why he was doing that. The only time I would respond was to tell him I</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, ST, HA, VS impact, DNR, CTA-names behavior, CTA-response</p>	

	<p>had a boyfriend and I asked him to stop calling me. He persisted, so I blocked his phone number. Instead of respecting my wishes to be left alone, he contacted me through any means he could find. I started to feel very intimidated and was terrified to see him on campus. I was also afraid he would find out where I lived and would go there and try something. I hardly left my room that quarter. I met with an HCC counselor, but they told me they could only do something if I gave his name. I didn't want to do that because I was worried about what he would do if he found out I reported him. This was stalking and harassment. It is not ok for someone to persistently try to contact/find you when you reject them. If anyone else has been through this, please know you are not alone.</p>		
72	<p>During fall quarter this year, I ended up getting pretty close to a guy on my floor. We were just friends, but I thought we got along well. One night, I thought I was just going over to his room to hang out, like I did almost every Friday. When I got to his room, he was already pretty trashed but that wasn't really that surprising to me. We're in college, so why not, right? A few of my friends were already there, so I decided to have a couple drinks along with them, and the next thing I know, he had his hands around my throat and he was choking me. I couldn't breathe at all, and it was absolutely terrifying. I tried to fight him off but I couldn't get him to stop. He's taller than I am, and a lot more muscular than I was at the time, so I wasn't in a very powerful position then. Eventually he let</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, SA, VS impact, DNR</p>	<p>not an explicit act of sexualized violence, but demonstrates power held (and comfortably exercised) by masc perpetrators - and the lack of action taken to confront it</p>

go, but in those moments I genuinely thought he was trying to kill me and that he was going to succeed. I thought I was going to die in front of all of my friends, and that nobody would even notice until it was too late. I left his room in full panic that night after he let me go and I work up the next morning with bruises on my neck. A few weeks before the choking happened, he had given me some laced weed that made me so sick I thought I was dying. I couldn't stop puking for almost three days, to the point that even plain water was too much. After I finally recovered from that, I for some reason determined that it was probably a fluke and he didn't mean it and I decided that it was okay for me to trust him again. I guess I was wrong. Because of these things, I had to move off of my floor and away from all of the friends I had made there. As a matter of fact, these two instances have made me decide to leave Downtown University after spring quarter this year, mostly because I see him every single day on campus and every time I see him, it feels like I'm reliving the terror of those nights. Pursuing charges against him seemed too intimidating for me at the time, but now I'm reconsidering. I just think it might be too late.

73	<p>By January of my Freshman year at DU, I was seeing this one guy pretty regularly (this guy would later go on to be the president of his fraternity). One night, I went to a party at his frat with a bunch of my friends. We were all drinking (from huge coolers of jungle juice) and having a good time for most of the night but at one point I was starting to get noticeably drunk and was separated from my friends. I went upstairs to hang out with the guy I had been seeing and a bunch of people in someone's room at the frat. Someone I knew handed me a Gatorade bottle with a drink in it. I took a relatively large drink and that was pretty much the last thing I remember from that night. A few hours later I became briefly aware that I was having sex with someone in the bathroom at the frat, and even remember hearing other people walk into the bathroom while we were there. I remember I kept trying to look in the mirror and behind me to see who it was but was so drunk or drugged that I couldn't tell who it was. I eventually made my way back to my dorm (don't remember doing so) and passed out in the lobby. Rather than sending me to detox when they found me the RAs at the front desk called an ambulance because I wasn't responding and my nose was bleeding. I woke up in the hospital, with my entire body bruised and hurting. I spent the next several weeks trying to put pieces together without any help or information from the guy I had been seeing who was at the party. I never had my blood tested at the hospital for anything other than alcohol content because while blacked out I had</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, power- social, power- relational, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA, unaware, FSL</p>	<p>quote about protecting relationships/masc person instead of reporting</p>
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	<p>refused to tell the police or doctors any information about where I had been drinking or who I was with. When I was put on probation by the school at the time I didn't give them any information about what had happened and life about the situation because <u>I was more concerned with protecting the guy I had been seeing</u> and hadn't realized what had happened to me. It took me several years before I realized that it was entirely possible that I had been drugged that night, and that I had been raped, and will ever know who did it to me.</p>		
74	<p>In the first month of my first year at DU, I was going to a party with a few of my friends and other people on my floor. On our way to the party, I was talking to friends of this dude who lived on my floor. We were all kind of joking around and then at one point this friends asked me if I was into this guy at all, which I wasn't so I just laughed and told them that, and didn't think anything of the question. I was completely unattracted to this guy and would have never imagined him as a sexual partner. Later on after the party we were all drinking in someone's dorm I was already pretty drunk by the time we got to the dorms and ended up taking a few shots or more at that point. The last thing I remember clearly from that night was face timing my best friend at home in the bathroom on the floor that we had been drinking on. It was the first time I had ever completely blacked out. I snapped back into awareness briefly much later that night in the middle of sex with the guy whose</p>	<p>freshman, DFSA, AC-unable to confirm, not taking a no, unaware, DNR, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	

	<p>friends had been asking me about him. I was so drunk I couldn't respond to the situation, and all I remember was laying motionless on my stomach and telling him to stop several times because he was hurting me. He didn't stop, and I blacked out for the rest of the night. In the morning I woke up and crawled out of his bed directly into the shower on our floor. I remember crying in the shower because I felt so gross and had no idea how I ended up with him. I stopped talking to him after that night and never talked to him about that night. It took me several years to realize and admit to myself that I had been raped. Until then I thought it was my fault for drinking too much or pushed it so far out of my mind that I couldn't admit to myself what had been done to me. He left DU after my first year, and by the time I realized what had happened to me I felt and still feel it is too late to take any action against him, because of fallback I have seen when my friends and other women try to report similar situations.</p>		
75	<p>An excerpt from my interview taken by Downtown University's Title IX investigator, "She remembered that when she woke up on Thursday, May 9th, she was naked, and her body hurt. She didn't have any clothing on. She just remembered that her body hurt really badly. She doesn't remember anything that happened in the hotel room. The only thing that she vaguely remembers is that he used his teeth. He used his teeth on her vagina. She isn't sure how hard he bit her because she only vaguely remembered it. She just</p>	<p>DFSA, power-institutional, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	<p>names how DU's process affected VS, and the power the school has; mirrors my own outcome</p>

	<p>remembers that her vagina hurt, and waking up naked, that's all. She remembers that for two or three days she was in a lot of pain. She also had general muscle soreness all over her body; her body felt sore and stiff. Everything was off that night..." I could go into further detail about how much alcohol I drank, how my friends were all interviewed about my sexual preferences and drinking habits. I could go into detail about everything that happened from May 8th, but I've already relived it. Over and over again. I did report it. I reported my story to Title IX, and it took them 7 months and two investigators to determine "It is less likely than so that Respondent violated the University's Policy prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and gender-based violence by engaging in Prohibited Conduct: Non-Consensual Penetration..." I've spent hours screaming and crying in my room. I've been unable to sleep at night due to panic attacks where I'm convinced he's there. I hurt myself, and I even tried to kill myself at one point. I thought about leaving the school because my education wasn't worth the pain I carried with my every day; pain that I still carry. I've lost friends, had my reputation ruined, and was treated as less than human. My abuser wasn't the only one who took away my voice. My school did, too.</p>		
76	<p>I went to [Fraternity] formal with this guy I had been seeing for a while. I was excited because we got to stay in our room, so I thought hooking up would be really fun. However, when we were there, he got so</p>	<p>power-social, power-relational, masc</p>	

	<p>angry at me for flirting with another guy and said we had to have sex to prove I wanted to be there with him. While we were having sex, he hit me across the face so hard I started crying. We had had rough sex before, but he had never actually hurt me like that. I was too scared to do anything because he was already so angry at me.</p>	<p>perpetrator, DV, SA, VS impact, FSL</p>	
77	<p>I have been a professor at Downtown University for 15 years. When I joined the Downtown University faculty I volunteered and completed a very intensive program to be a court advocate for any student, staff, or faculty member who had been sexually assaulted. It was a brand new program at Downtown University and we had virtually zero support from upper administration-it was crazy...they did not want this program activated. At that time, Downtown University wouldn't even get us a cell phone for folks on call... (we had someone on call 24hrs a day, 7 days a week). We had to work with ONE outdated, shitty pager for three years. Working with campus safety was a total joke – they made fun of us and also undermined our efforts in some very serious ways. They refused to coordinate with us or work with us. They would not call Denver police when they should have. They were-let's say...contrary (oh so many stories...). We complained. Nothing ever happened... During those years, I spent numerous nights in the hospital with Downtown University students while they underwent rape kits – these often took around 9 hours (in my experience, in this</p>	<p>Employee, HA, power-institutional, masc perpetrator</p>	<p>faculty calls out University maintenance of harmful expressions of power</p>

capacity, I overwhelmingly engaged with students who had been drugged and raped at frat parties). This work was extremely taxing and time consuming, but work I cared passionately about. I opted to do this work rather than other forms of University service work. As a trained court advocate, I represented Downtown University in the community, in the hospitals, at the DA's office, and in the courts. None of this mattered until I was up for tenure. When I went through my tenure process, I was told this advocacy work didn't count as service work for the university – that it didn't matter. This was confirmed by upper administration. I was told to remove mention of this work from my tenure file... Service work is a big piece of the tenure process (!!!). I devoted many hours of my life to this work for several years and the university refused to acknowledge it as legitimate. On paper, I looked like I had done virtually no service work. A member of my tenure committee claimed to have called my court advocacy supervisor. She said that my supervisor said what I did was “no big deal” and that I was exaggerating... (I later learned from my supervisor that this is not what happened). Again I was told I was not allowed to mention my Downtown University student advocacy work in my tenure file. I did get tenure, but this experience told me (and confirmed) everything I knew about Downtown University's approach to sexual violence. During this time a new male colleague was hired. He made me (and others) extremely uncomfortable and in his first quarter already had complaints about

	<p>stalking/sexually harassing two students. A member of my tenure committee said I should take this guy out for drinks and, his words, “make nice.” When I explained I was uncomfortable doing so he reminded me that I was under consideration for tenure. It felt like a weird threat. As a result of this pressure, I met this problematic colleague for a drink. I left an hour later when he told me he knew I wanted to be fucked like I was being raped and then demanded I got to his apartment. When I told my Chair and upper administration about this they ignored it. This predatory colleague was allowed to continue teaching, all while making lewd comments to female professors and students, and also sexually harassing students (even after he was detained by Denver police for sexual harassment off campus). Eventually he was denied tenure for bullshit reasons that never mentioned or brought up the NUMEROUS complaints about his sexual misconduct. He went on the job market and was hired at another similar institution.</p>		
78	<p>In October of 2018 I went to a party and had a little too much to drink. I walked home alone because the party was close by campus. On my way home a man forced himself against me and put his hand over my mouth. He backed me against an apartment building and pulled down my pants...He raped me and left me alone in the dark. I was too afraid and embarrassed to call the police so I got the courage to head back up to my dorm... I ended up getting pregnant from that incident. I got</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, SA, DNR, VS impact, power-institutional,</p>	

	<p>an abortion and felt an intense amount of shame from the incident and from the decision to get an abortion... I couldn't live with it anymore. In February I ended up attempting suicide. I became distant from all my friends and became so alone. I felt like I couldn't talk to anyone. I got more deeply depressed and attempted suicide again in April. Downtown University kicked me out without even asking why I was in such a bad spot... If anyone asked, or wanted to listen, I would have opened up and maybe things would have been different to have prevented either attempt. I eventually opened up to a therapist and resource outside of Downtown University that really helped. I felt heard and worked through my shame. Downtown University accepted me back the next fall. There is hope</p>		
79	<p>I caught a man masturbating in the library not once, not twice, but three times. The third time is when I contacted campus safety immediately, as they had told me to do. The man then left, and campus safety said they couldn't do anything... DPD asked if I wanted to press charges and I said no because I was in finals week at the time. I asked campus safety to notify people about this guy, as it happened more than once on campus, and the man was very recognizable; older white man with dreads all the way down his back... nobody did anything. We get notifications about streakers on campus, but not a repeat public masturbator in our library. I was just disappointed at the lack of action by the school for the safety of other students.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, did report, power-institutional, CTA-university, HA</p>	

80	<p>I have been at Downtown University for over 10 years as a student and a staff members. At the coor's fitness center there is an older male member that based on this description hundreds of past and current employees and patrons know exactly who I am talking about... He is sexually inappropriate verbally and physically towards female patrons. There was a time I witnessed him follow a female patron around to four different locations in the gym, on one such occasion standing so close to her with his groin area over her had as she attempted to do flys on a bench. I know two women who refuse to work out at Coors because they do not wish to see this man ever again. One is paying for a gym membership off campus because of her encounters with this man. Over the years he has (that I am aware of) over 15 complaints against him for such behavior. I have personally tried to file complaints against this individual. As I have come to understand because this individual knows two quite powerful upper administration persons, the complaints disappear from our computer systems. This man has also made several racist comments toward black and hispanic coworkers at our facility One personal experience I had with this man was that he brought a gun on to our campus. He had a revolver sitting in a holster on one of the benches in the Men's Gold locker room. Myself and a supervisor confronted him and informed him this was a gun free campus. He very aggressively and angrily complained about his second amendment rights and refused to take the gun back to his vehicle and off campus.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, HA, power-social, power-institutional</p>	<p>instance of DU staff using power to affect institution and social impact</p>
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	<p>This man is a predator and is using our gym as a hunting ground for young women.</p>		
81	<p>My entire class watched a fellow student physically sexually harass a woman IN CLASS in front of the professor. 1 week later he was back in class, forcing our classmate to literally run out of the room in distress. When we all protested his return to campus the administration said "our hands are tied" and "we hoped you all could forgive him." We had to revolt as an entire cohort and threaten to quit the program before they removed him from class. This happened only 4 months ago in the Fall 2019.</p>	<p>HA, power-institutional, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	
82	<p>My first year of law school I was stalked and harassed by one of my classmates. He would make comments about my clothes, my body, and my classmates... he would follow me to my car and make it so I couldn't leave. Downtown University did nothing. The Title IX office never filed a complaint even though I asked for it. Then they told me it was all in my head.</p>	<p>ST, HA, masc perpetrator, power-institutional</p>	

83	<p>I was abroad when this happened. I was taking care of a guy who happened to be drunk. I was walking to his motel when he stopped acting drunk and dragged me inside. I do not remember what happened from when I was forced into the room to when I was walking back to my campus abroad. I told my program about the assault and they got me the resources I need. They also told Downtown University... they didn't even bother reaching out. They only reached out once. But then after that, never again... I was told that I would get another email after I return from abroad for a check in. None of that. Downtown University seriously needs to put their students as a priority even if they are abroad.</p>	<p>force, SA, masc perpetrator, power-institutional, CTA-university</p>	<p>happened abroad, example of another institution's response vs. DU's</p>
84	<p>It was October 2015. The first time was absolutely consensual. It was a fling that wasn't supposed to happen more than once - yes, even women can enjoy the occasional one-night-stand. But then a week later, you sought me out at a party... You encouraged my friends to get me to drink more, then grabbed me when my friends weren't looking. You dragged me back to your dorm. You took everything away from me. I would try to bring it up with my friends, but they would brush it off as just another hookup... I hid it for years. I didn't understand why I froze when with other sexual partners- they would be over me and I would feel absolute terror and fear. I thought that was how it was supposed to feel - scary. Submissive. Passive. Numb... It wasn't until I sat across from you in a lecture hall during our senior year, when I was forced to look you in the</p>	<p>GN perpetrator, DFSA, force, DNR, unaware, VS impact</p>	

	<p>eyes, that I allowed myself to be vulnerable and realize that I had been sexually assaulted by you. I have worked tirelessly to feel control of my body again - there is hope.</p>		
85	<p>When I was a freshman, I went to a date party at a fraternity. I went with a boy whom I trusted, and had a massive crush on. I only had two drinks at the party, both of which came from freshly opened bottles. Three or four neighbors of the hosts of the party showed up. They were probably in their mid-twenties and everyone thought they were creepy and wanted them to leave. My date left me for only 5 minutes that night, and while I waited for him to finish his conversation I set my drink down on a table. My date came back and we had a great time. I was so happy to finally go on this "date" with him and thought nothing could ruin how excited I was. Next thing I know I'm at the bar and I ran out to the back alley and stumbling around, thankfully a girl I knew got me an uber back to [residence hall]. I have almost no recollection of campus security and paramedics questioning me in my room. I was taken to the hospital, and was told I was roofied. I thought my date would hate me, but instead he helped me contact the president of his frat. The President was, surprisingly, and thankfully beyond helpful. He told me that two other people were also roofied, and that it was the creepy neighbors who did it. When I told</p>	<p>attempted DFSA. power-institutional, VS impact, Masc perpetrator, FSL</p>	<p>positive impact of being supported/believed</p>

	<p>Downtown University, they told me I needed more "proof" to do something as I had thrown away my papers from the hospital because they made me think of that terrible night. I also STILL got a violation of alcohol misuse on my record. I don't know what was planned to do to me, and that still scares me to this day. I neighbors have since left their home and I was unable to get the school to look into this instance in the slightest... Thank goodness my date was so kind, and that I had other male allies who believed me and wanted to help. This is so unfortunately rare, and I am so lucky that I was not assaulted. I still get scared in crowds, and can never go back to the place I was drugged. Sending love to those who have also experienced similar situations.</p>		
86	<p>Went out to a bar by Downtown University for drinks with my buddies. We were celebrating and I ended up getting very drunk and blacked out. I don't remember much except for blips of standing at the bar and then waking up completely naked in this girls bed... I asked her if we had sex the next morning and she said yes, I don't remember it happening at all. I tried to talk to my friends about it and they laughed it off and talked about how lucky I was to hook up with her. I look back on that night and know I was raped but am too ashamed to say anything because I'm a guy and the stigma that comes with.</p>	<p>fem perpetrator, DFSA, AC- unable to confirm, power-social, VS impact, masc VS</p>	<p>effect of masculinity on VS</p>

87	<p>He and I went on a date. He knew I was nervous as I had just gotten out of a less than stellar relationship. He made me feel okay. We went back to his place and talked some more. I was warming up to him, hell I was attracted to him too. We started kissing... it evolved and soon we were having sex. It was consensual so far. Then he was getting really rough. He as hurting me and I told him I wanted to stop. He said nothing. I told him again and again until he put his hand over my mouth and told me that I needed to work on my pain tolerance. I prayed to god it would end. When it did he went back to the same funny guy I was talking to earlier in the night. We never spoke again. He probably forgot about the whole thing. I wish I could too.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, SA, AC-shift, not taking a no</p>	
88	<p>It was my first quarter at Downtown University and I had talked to the guy before we had even gotten to school and kinda was into him. When we got to school he unadded me and when I saw him the first couple weeks he acted like he didn't even know me. One night at the bar he came up to me and we hu [hooked up] in the bathroom and it was all consensual. Flash forward a couple weeks after saw him at the same bar and he asked me to come to his dorm because his roommate was out of town. I said yes, and when we got in the uber he had already slipped his hand up my dress and I was wildly not ok with it. I tried to push his hand away but I'm small and he had a tight grip of my upper thigh. We got to his dorm and he started to undress me and we had sex and at this point I felt defenseless. He told me</p>	<p>freshman, power-relational, AC-shift, not taking a no, SA, pressure, CTA-response, masc perpetrator</p>	<p>VS address bystanders to intervene, and makes comment that SA is an unfortunate norm in society - rather than confronting society to end it in the first place, like it's just an eventuality. Thats how much of an engrained norm it is.</p>

	<p>to call him certain names and kept calling me "his slut" and a "bitch". He even made me call myself those names. I just wanted it to be over and to go home but I felt numb. He asked if he could do things I was uncomfortable with and when I said no he just persisted and eventually gave up and let him. When it was over he used the bathroom and I just lay there not able to speak or even move. I felt so hurt and taken advantage of. When he came back I put my clothes on and left and immediately started sobbing in the elevator. I called my friends and they came to my side. The support I received from them was amazing and I'm proud to have them as friends. Unfortunately we live in a society where this happens, but it does. Always ask your friends if they're ok to go home with someone and make sure you always check in with them.</p>		
89	<p>Sophomore year I met this guy on tinder and he seemed like a really great guy. I went over to his place to hang out, and as soon as we got into his dorm he started aggressively kissing me and pushed me onto his bed. I told him that I wanted to take it slower but he ripped my pants off and said "you don't want that baby". He started having sex with me and when I cried out in pain he flipped me over and pushed my head into a pillow while he violated me. Afterwards, he got mad that I got blood all over his sheets and told me to leave. I could barely walk, my body screamed in pain and my vagina bled for a week after. I felt like it was my fault for going over there in the first place so I</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift, not taking a no, SA, unaware, DNR, VS impact, CTA-names behavior</p>	

	<p>justified it to myself and didn't report it. It still haunts me to this day. Rape is never justifiable.</p>		
90	<p>When I was a sophomore I took my friend back to his house one night because he was too drunk. His roommate felt bad and didn't want me to walk all the way home that late at night and told me I could spend the night and sleep in his room. I didn't think anything of it and thought he was so nice for helping me out. So I followed him into his room. While we were laying down he started touching me and we started having sex. I never said no or stopped him but I hated it. I just wanted it to be over because I didn't want to walk all the way home at 3 am. I don't even know what his name was. The minute the sun came up I ran back to my dorm. I felt off about it but just told my friends I hooked up with someone and it was fine. I don't know if I was raped or if that is rape but now I can't enjoy sex. I get so much anxiety whenever I'm alone with a guy when I'm drunk or if he's drunk. One time I saw the guy out and he acted like he didn't even know who I was. The person who made me feel so helpless and confused gets to act like he never even did anything. I don't feel comfortable in my own body and I feel like I can't tell anyone my situation because it happened so long ago. And would people even believe me if I told them now?</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, AC-shift, SA. unaware, VS impact</p>	

91	<p>I had gone on a couple dates with this guy and nothing intimate or serious had happened yet. He invited me to a party at his house and I went. It was really chill for a while and he made me a few drinks and I got really drunk. He brought me to his bedroom towards the end of the night and we started making out, this was consensual but I insisted time and time again that I didn't want to have sex yet and I wanted to wait. He kept trying to put his hands down my pants and I moved his hands and kept telling him that I didn't want to have sex yet he kept pushing and tried to convince me to, I eventually gave up on fighting him. He pulled down my shorts and flipped me onto my stomach. I cried in silence because I felt like I couldn't do anything to stop what was happening. I tried to leave early in the morning while he was still asleep and without him noticing but he woke up and drove me home. I just wanted to forget about it and never see him again. Later that weekend, wanting to forget about the incident, I got blackout drunk and had a panic attack. I got written up and explained my situation during my meeting with student conduct people. I had to have another meeting with them to discuss my outcomes, I had to talk about it time and time again just after it had happened with people I didn't know... At the end of the day I only received one outcome which was some psych evaluation. I just felt so terrible after having to tell strangers again and again what happened just so I wouldn't get probation, or other consequences.</p>	<p>SA, masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift. not taking a no, VS impact, power-institutional</p>	
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92	<p>Freshman year, I abandoned all of my self-love & worth into a psychopath... one with protection from his mother as a Downtown University faculty member and two brothers as alumni, one even working here as well. A boy who not only would manipulate me into abusive fantasies but who also confided into me his homicidal tendencies... how he would hurt other people, who he would hurt. As the physical abuse furthered beyond seemingly sexual release until black eyes convinced me that I was safer with him than without... he even pushed me down in the middle of the street and chased me until one of our friends (who campus safety informed me was sexually abuse by him during our relationship) stopped him from pursuing me in is rage. Once he started fighting random strangers after to going to bars alone and really losing himself to addiction. I knew that not only did I need to leave school for my own safety but that both campus safety and the Denver police needed to be aware of this danger. I showed them screenshots of his direct threats at people as well as intentions of homicidal behavior; photo evidence of the physical abuse; brought in a number of witnesses, but not as many as the people who had already reported him prior to my illumination of his behavior. Even with Downtown University's private investigator on board, he remained on campus well after having been excused. Two weeks after I left for home, he broke into my old residence hall and used a fire extinguisher from the building to shoot up my specific floor, targeting my best friends and</p>	<p>freshman, DV, SA, power-social, power-institutional, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	
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roommates sending me textual evidence after that he was aiming for them. After all of this, no repercussions ensued. One can only imagine the power that a staff member of the athletics department maintains in protecting not only their own but the school itself. Flash forward years later, I am isolated from the Downtown University community in the mess of {name removed} that I got involved in, both out of his social manipulations as well as genuine fear on my end. He spread rumors, coerced some of my closest friends (sometimes sexually), even sent another girl from our class back into mental health rehab after they got together despite his attack on [residence hall] 6th floor. He even tried to come back as a student. His mother conducted the case so slyly that he almost made it into the system until the school had to reach out to my roommate & I to inform us of his potential return. When he was fortunately denied a return as a student, he applied to work under his mother at the fitness center. I still find myself calling campus security (specifically the private investigator) to report his presence on campus every time, which has been multiple times just walking down the sidewalk, one time even antagonizing my friend from his car as he drove by. They claim they cannot do anything about it... very recently, two male campus safety officers violated my space by going through my panty drawer & room with flashlights (as my roommate testified) like an FBI raid in response to a suicidal ideation tip to my room, which I was not present in. The case reads that they

	<p>confiscated my candles and paraphernalia by simply entering the room and seeing it in plain sight. Even after informing the student conduct administrator of their mishandling of protocol and lying on their report (which is proven in my roommates testimony!), I was actually condoned with four CONSEQUENCES from the school... none of which pertaining to my suicidal ideation or mental health which the case even began with, stemming from PTSD I obtained on ths campus under their watch. Part of the recent report claimed that campus safety had run ins with me in the past; this portion of the file failed to mention that these were pertaining to my abuser... considerring that one of my friends' fathers has stepped down as the head of campus safety (despite knowingly sacrificing practically free tuition for his daughter) due to his uncomfotability in the handling of secual assault cases on campus, one can only assume where our tuition money truly goes when administraton claims to protect its students: not in the resource of justice but rather the wallets of those protecting the institution paying them to do so.</p>		
93	<p>I think it's really hard to recognize sexual assault when you're in a relationship with someone you love. Freshman year I had my first serious boyfriend. He as older, and we dated for about a year. After about 8 months, he became pretty verbally abusive and controlling... when he was drunk but I believed his excuses and apologies and let it slide. Around this same time, there were</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, AC-unable to confirm, SA, DV, unaware, VS impact</p>	

	<p>at least two times where i got too drunk, fell asleep in his bed and woke up to his dick pushing up against me or inside of me already. When I reacted negatively, he either told me to calm down because he wouldn't take long or manipulated me into feeling bad about calling him out, even crying one time. I didn't even realize at the time that this was rape, and it took until we broke up to realize how much he took advantage of me. It took me almost another year after we broke up for me to trust any guy or be able to be sexually intimate with anyone.</p>		
94	<p>In fall of 2019 I asked the head commander of security to help us because we noticed one of our classmates was cornering people, following them, getting them very drunk, offering rides but not taking them home. We knew someone was going to get hurt... the Commander said he called this man and interviewed him, and his behavior made sense. I never trusted Downtown University again after that. Title IX called us a liar, and the police chief said the behavior made sense. It felt like no one cared.</p>	<p>HA, power-institutional, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	<p>direct connection between institutional action and VS impact</p>
95	<p>My boyfriend told me I thought I was too cool. He told me I had to stay beautiful for him. He asked me to give him head, and I said no. He said he would fuck me instead. I said no. He got on top of me. I tried to kick him off with my legs. He grabbed them, pried them open, ripped off my underwear, and that was the first of many times I'd be humiliated and dehumanized for saying no.</p>	<p>power-relational, masc perpetrator, DV, SA, not taking a no</p>	

96	My "friend" left me in this house with a guy I had just met. I was drunk. He carried me to the basement. I said no. He didn't care.	masc perpetrator, DFSA, force, not taking a no	
97	I was in an abusive relationship with another downtown university student and repeatedly raped, assaulted, harassed, and threatened by him. I reported to campo but was afraid to name him. Finally, I reported to DPD... He'd graduated but was charged and banned from campus. When subpoenaed for my student conduct records, Downtown University declined to object, declined to protect a victim's privacy... Downtown University had the recorded assault and still was willing to give him access to my records.	DV, SA, power-relational, masc perpetrator, did report, institutional power	
98	My roommate and I were assaulted off campus in our own apartment by a non Downtown University student. We lived right nex to Vista, so even though it was off campus, it still was basically on campus. The man that assaulted us was arrested on the scene. I called campus safety 2 hours after it had happened, while still at the hospital, because Denver Police told me to tell them what had happened and I really wanted other Downtown University students to be aware of locking their doors and windows, because he got in because we left the door unlocked. I called them and they told me to give my story, and I gave it in pretty graphic detail, as well as my police report #. They told me since the case was "resolved" and he was caught, they couldn't do much about it. I thought it was important to tell other	SA, masc perpetrator, did report, power-institutional, VS impact	

Downtown University students to lock their doors. I never thought I wasn't safe inside my own apartment. They said they would call me back and let me know. It took 5 days, until they eventually called me back, this time it was an actual campus safety officer. He went on to tell me that they were trying to get approval to release something about it. He also went on to tell me that this didn't surprise him as their had been 2 shootings at the gas station across the street and numerous sexual assaults in the area in the past few months. I told him to let me know if they get approval. A few days later, a girl I had been staying with told me that campus safety released an email about me. I didn't get the email because they took me off the list. It listed in incredibly graphic detail about what happened to me and my roommate. I never approved for this email to go out, no one ever called me, and I never thought they would release all the graphic details about my assault. I can't help but feeling like it's my fault for giving them that much detail in the first place. I just wanted Downtown University students to remember to lock their doors and windows. Now, I don't even read campus safety emails because they are all so graphic and triggering to me. I'm sure that other students feel the same. CAPE has been amazing to me, they have been the only reason I have gotten through all of this.

99	<p>He and I were completely sober. He knew I wasn't in a good mood at the time so we were hanging out on the couch then suddenly he's on top of me, pinning my hands down with one hand. I asked him what he's doing so he whispers in my ear... "making you feel better, baby, just how you want me to" but I never wanted him to. He started fingering me but all I kept repeatedly saying was "no no no no". I tried to turn my body away but he was too heavy. I got one of my hands out from his grasp then pulled his finger out but he told me to "stop" and put it back in and continued. I tried to sit up but his whole body weigh was basically on me now. I remember it from time to time. This was a guy I dated for 3 years... It doesn't matter how long you've known a person. A "no" still means no.</p>	<p>SA, masc perpetrator, AC-shift, not taking a no, VS impact, power-relational, CTA-perp, CTA-behavior</p>	
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100	<p>I am a current DU staff member. I am also a two-time alumna, with my bachelor's and master's degrees from Downtown University. And, I'm a three-time survivor of sexual assault on campus. Here we are, 16 years later, and I am horrified to read that the same damn shit is still happening, but so grateful for this platform. I'm holding space for you all, fellow survivors... Story 1 of 3: I worked with this person very closely in a Greek Life leadership position. I considered him a trusted friend. He came over to my on-campus apartment to "hang out". I dug out my journal from 2004 (junior year). Here is what I wrote about that night: You push me further, and I say no. But there's reluctance in my voice and you smile your sweet, sly smile and I am completely encompassed by the charm that pours out of your partially parted lips. An art you've practiced to perfection, but it feels like genuine infatuation to me, and I'm caught. My mind screams no, it's too fast, it's not right, but my body works ever in favor of the goal your charm is working to accomplish. Mind and body in complete opposition. I shut off all reason and allow you to take control. A tear slides down my face and what my body craves tears me up inside. You push me harder and when it hurts I cry out for you to stop but it's too late. You captured my power and it's your game now. Entirely beyond the person you woo'd and sang acoustic Coldplay to and the neck you kissed so softly and the ear you whispered sweet flattery into, all mesh into one sole object, a receptacle for your pleasure, no more. And when the eyes shed</p>	Employee, masc perpetrator, SA, power-social, power-relational force, pressure. not taking a no, no idea	
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salty drops of disapproval and the voice utters sounds and words nobody experiencing enjoyment would emit, you cover my mouth and proceed as you planned to all along, without a care in the world how much force it takes to accomplish your goal. And by the time the bruises on my wrists turn blue and the bite marks on my breasts swell and fully form, the alcohol has worn off and I wonder with an emotional distance from my intellect how I could have ended up in this place when I set out with a friend I trusted so innocently. And how desperately I wanted to feel loved and how desperately you wanted me to drink your gin & tonic. And how your sweet voice sounded with that guitar and how much my body liked your passionate kisses, but how wrong it felt to have your incredibly bulky muscles holding me down while you forced yourself on top of me and shushed my hesitation. And when you ripped my clothes I cried in horror and froze in amazement that this gentle man would ignore a sweet petite woman's pain for the benit of his pleasure, and had he not been a virgin he would have taken his pointers learned from his pornography collection to a level far worse than the degredation cause by forcing the focal point of his pleasure into my mouth, holding my arms so tightly the bruises in the perfectly distinguishable shape of masculine fingers lasted for a week and when I see you the next day working out at the Ritchie Center, you act a if it were all a game and think no wrong done on your part since, after all, we're friends.

101	<p>I already submitted my assault story. What I didn't share was that when I contacted cape about resources, they accidentally sent me another person's case. The person apologized profusely and told me to delete it, but that didn't change the fact the whole process no longer felt confidential... I knew someone else's personal history and I didn't want something personal shared to other people. the man that raped me had money, and Downtown University needs to know that know that money doesn't equal power or an exception to no meaning no.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-institutional, power-social, CTA-university</p>	<p>naming connection between power and money and institutional catering to money</p>
102	<p>It was the fall quarter of my sophomore year at Downtown University. I had gone to a bar with my roommate, and had joked that it been so long that I had been with a guy I would go home with someone that night. I wish I hadn't. At the bar, we started talking to this guy who was a senior, and he and I had gotten quite along. At some point, some of my guy friends from a frat came and I hung out with them for a while. I asked them about this one guy I was talking to (the same one), and they said he seemed strange to them. I should have listened to them. The guy at the bar asked if I wanted to go home with him, and I accepted. We got to his place, and he had whiskey dick, and started fingering me so hard I had to push him back and yell at him to stop because it hurt so much. He then went into the bathroom, and I waited for him, still naked under the blankets. A minute later, two of his friends came into the room telling me I have to leave in 5 minutes "or else". I asked them to leave so I could get dressed but they refused,</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, SA, DNR, VS impact</p>	

	<p>insisting that I dressed in front of them, which I was NOT going to do. At the third point of asking, I'd had enough and yelled at them to "get the fuck out so can get my shit on and leave this fucking place." They did, and I got my clothes and things together and left, rejecting their offer to get me an Uber, not wanting to spend another second with them. At that time, I'm very glad to have found my voice, making as much sound as possible saved me.</p> <p>Learning what my voice meant to me saved me. I went home laughing about it all, then ended up crying and calling my parents and roommate, who were so helpful. I didn't report it because I thought my use of alcohol would get in the way. It shouldn't have. Since that October day, I've been too nervous to be with another man (even though I wish I could have and still could have) and have developed social anxiety and wish that night could have been a terrible dream.</p>		
103	<p>I was having consensual sex with a guy that I had taken home from the bars when he then start to try and have anal sex with me. When I told him to stop, he ignored me and held me down and kept doing it. I bled for a couple of days and it took a while for me to realize what happened was sexual assault. Just because I consented to sex doesn't mean I consented to all sex.</p>	<p>AC-shift, masc perpetrator, SA, force, not taking a no, CTA-names behavior</p>	<p>Names AC-shift - use own words in theme?</p>

104	<p>He followed me home from the bar one night. I thought he seemed cool - but I didn't want to sleep with him. The fact that he was belligerently drunk didn't help the situation. He ended up holding my head down while I performed oral sex on him. I couldn't stop gagging because I didn't want to do it, but he kept telling me keep going and I didn't know how to say no. I was a freshman then, and it took me two years to realize what happened to me was even a sexual assault. He was a well-liked athlete and several years older than I was, and I was afraid of the social repercussions of reporting. Looking back now 2 years later I wish I had. Every time he walked by me on campus he pretended I didn't exist but I felt sick to my stomach just looking at him. I want everyone to know that you aren't alone, and that no matter how respected or popular your assailant is you deserve justice and to be at peace.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, SA, force, not taking a no, freshman, power-social, DNR, VS impact, CTA-response</p>	<p>names respect and popularity as social power forces that influence reporting and justice</p>
105	<p>My neighbor sexually assaulted me while I was passed out after a night of drinking in my own room. He walked into my room without prior invitation and took advantage of my unconsciousness. I woke up to him having sex with me. I texted him about it the day after and he pretended like he didn't know I was literally asleep. He's in a frat and I was too scared to say anything. I never felt safe again.</p>	<p>SA, AC-unable to confirm, no idea, DNR, power-social, VS impact, masc perpetrator, FSL</p>	<p>names social power influence on seeking justice</p>
106	<p>I was working on a project with a trusted friend and we were working late and both tired. I laid down to take a break then suddenly he was next to me - nothing happened at first and even though I was so tired I couldn't rest. I think he thought I</p>	<p>power-relational, AC-shift, SA, unaware,</p>	

	<p>was asleep and he started groping me and I didn't know what to do so I just let it happen. I still don't know what to think because it wasn't "severe" or anything but being touched without my consent makes me realize that is was sexual assault. Reading these posts has allowed me to realize that it wasn't my fault for letting my guard down or not saying no - and given me the courage to share this here.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator</p>	
107	<p>Three years later and I am still suicidal every day.</p>	<p>VS impact</p>	
109	<p>While in undergrad at Downtown University, I was raped at a party off campus. I was blamed by family members and friends who said it was my fault that it happened, it was my fault because I was drunk. I looked to Downtown University resources for support but found myself reliving the night as I was asked to tell and retell the story. It made me question the way that night made me feel and how it impacts me to this day and if, somehow, it was actually my fault.</p>	<p>SA, victim blame, power-institutional</p>	

110	<p>The first night I was in Denver as a freshman, the Saturday before O week, some athletes that I had met when I first toured the school invited me to a party and I was so excited and went. We drank and we had a lot of fun. Towards the end of the night, one of the guys I knew and considered a friend was leaving and I walked back with him with the intent of grabbing an Uber after I grabbed my bag and jacket which were at his friends house and where he was going. I was really drunk. He insisted I just spend the night and head back in the morning, because my mom might get mad at me if I came back to the hotel room drunk. I agreed and he let me sleep in a spare room in the house. In the middle of the night I woke up to him kissing me, on top of me, with his hands in my underwear, he had already taken off my shirt and shorts. I try to move his hands away from me because he's hurting me and I try to push his face away from mine and finally get out the words. I tell him to stop it and to get off of me. He did. He went to sleep right next to me and I laid awake until the sun came up and got an Uber back to where I was staying with my mom. I didn't tell my mom what happened. I threw up 3 times the next day out of disgust and took several scorching hot showers to try and wash away any trace of him. Luckily, my mom played it off as a bad hangover. I thought for the longest time this was just me being a stupid drunk and my mistake, my fault. And sometimes I can't help but think it is. I always find myself trying to defend him. I even used to say hi to him whenever I saw him. But recently, the</p>	<p>freshman, power-social, power-relational, masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC-shift. VS impact, DNR, unaware, power-institutional?</p>	<p>believes the University would not have done anything; example of institutional power?</p>
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	<p>stares he gives me and the looks his friends give me when they see me on campus just make my stomach twist. I never reported this incident because I knew it wasn't worth it. I knew nobody would really care about it. I knew it would be brushed off like no big deal. And, I didn't want to start college as a victim. I ignored it for so long and i's affected so many of my relationships, a year and a half later and I still... can't sleep for more than a couple hours at a time. I wake up multiple times every night to the quietest noises. Every time I hear someone outside of my building, every time my roommate turns in her sleep. It's sad knowing that even if I had reported the incident, I would probably be in the same position I'm in now if not worse.</p>		
111	<p>This happened not long ago and I don't feel ready to share all the details publicly, even if its anonymous, so I'm leaving this vague. This is something I'm still coming to terms with. A boy I had just met ended up in my room alone with me. He initiated it, I was so surprised I didn't know how to tell him no. He just grabbed me and started kissing me, without a warning. I told him I didn't really want to have sex but he got into bed with me and put my hand down his pants. I never said no or told him to stop, but I was miserable the entire time to the point where I felt nauseous. I just wanted it to be over so I could go to sleep. He left the next morning without even saying anything. I cried for hours that day. I have never felt more worthless and confused. When I see him around campus he always looks happy and it angers me that he probably doesn't</p>	<p>SA, masc perpetrator, not taking a no, AC, VS impact, no idea, unaware, DNR, power-social, CTA-response, CTA-perp</p>	<p>names social power as factor to not take action</p>

	<p>realize he did anything wrong. The boy who made me feel so used and disgusting can walk past me on campus and hide his eyes like I don't exist. I brushed it off to my friends as an awkward hookup. I didn't report it because I honestly don't know if what happened to me constitutes sexual assault... I didn't tell him to stop and he didn't aggressively force me into anything, but I did not want any of that to happen. The fact that this movement even has to exist here at Downtown University is insane. I shouldn't be afraid to be with a guy again because I'm worried if I'll have a panic attack. I shouldn't be scared to go out with my friends because seeing him makes me hate myself. I shouldn't have been afraid to tell him to stop or to talk about what happened to me because of who he is. That's beyond fucked up. We need to protect the victims and stop making excuses for people who don't understand what "no" means. This needs to end.</p>		
112	<p>There is a guy that lives on my floor that sexually assaulted me twice that I reported along with two other girls on my floor and he does not go to class and had not been to a single class and it is end of week five. he sits on his computer and the screams all day he lives next to me and I can hear every single word. Kid comes from a lot of money and he was a varsity wrestler. He also assaulted one of my friends and nothing was done and many administrative members know about him. I feel unsafe and I am then put to blame for reaching out.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, SA, power-social, power-institutional, VS impact</p>	

113	<p>I sincerely cannot wait to get out of this school. I feel trapped as a victim being punished by the administration who doesn't want me to have a voice. They are doing everything in their power to get me to emotionally react so they can expel me and trust me, they have a lot of power. How does this just go under the radar? Please. What can we do to save future students from this oppression? The fact that they get paid to hurt us further...</p>	<p>power-institutional, CTA-names behavior</p>	<p>names GBV as oppression; good quote</p>
114	<p>I was in line for the bathroom at border alone when it was pretty empty. I usually can take care of myself, and with my friends nearby I wasn't worried about waiting in line or going in by myself when I had done it so many times before. As I went into one of the bathrooms, a man came in with me and pushed me against the door. He was kissing me, trying to rip my shirt off of me. I managed to get him off of me and ran home. The whole encounter lasted maybe 30 seconds but there are still so many nights when I wake up gasping for breath as I remember the feeling of his hands on my legs and on my throat. It's been a year now, and not a day goes by that I don't carry this burden with me.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, SA, VS impact</p>	

115	<p>I interviewed this guy for a [newspaper] story. He started inviting me to house parties. I said no until one night my roommate wanted to go so I said yes. After a couple beers we all went downtown and he got me a martini from the bar. Everything went fuzzy, then black. I have fragmented flashes of memories: someone carrying me into his house from a car. People telling other people I needed water. Waking up at 3 a.a. on a cold tile bathroom floor with my face stuck on a toilet seat. Trying to respond to a text from my other roommate asking where we were. Her showing me the next day that it was a jumble of incoherent letters. Him waiting for me as I crawled out of the bathroom. Trying to sleep while he climbed on top of me from behind, moved my panties to the side and penetrated me. No ability to speak. Waking up to him having sex with me again while his friends jumped on the bed like buffoons. I got up and went to breakfast with him, his friends and my roommates in the morning, not remembering anything. He left to pick up his girlfriend from the airport. Days later it came flooding back. I cried and slept for a week, so confused. My clothes were still in a heap on my floor. I went to my ob/gyn. She documented severe visible trauma to my cervix. She said my symptoms were consistent with the GHB date rape drug, but I didn't get a rape kit done to verify b/c too much time had passed by the time my amnesia faded. I contracted HPV and had to have a horrendously painful procedure where pre-cancerous cells were burned and scraped off my cervix. I made a report to</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, DFSA, AC- unable to confirm, did report, power-institutional, power-social, VS impact, CTA- university</p>	<p>call to action, good quote (head for section?)</p>
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	<p>Downtown University. This went through student affairs (no Title IX back then). He had just graduated so there was nothing they could do... I filed a police report. I went to the station alone. The detective interrogated me with a barrage of shaming and blaming questions on camera. He took my clothes from that night. He swabbed my cheek for a DNA sample to the lab could match it to my vaginal secretions in my underwear to make sure I wasn't planting evidence. My perpetrator got a lawyer. The DA rejected the case because DPD "didn't have the resources to prosecute ever minor date rape case." I lost friends who didn't believe me. I had my dignity, power, health and safety stripped away. Then, for the icing on the cake, the Downtown University alumni magazine wrote a story about my rapist and his career accomplishments. I have chronic PTSD. I've tried to commit suicide multiple times. I'm divorced. I don't have any real friends - I don't trust people. That night changed the trajectory of my entire life. Do fucking better.</p>		
117	<p>I was raped on my 21st birthday by another Downtown University student. I got too drunk at the Stadium and my sorority sis who took me out to the bar left me with a random guy she knew who also went to Downtown University. "He's such a great guy - he's in the cooking club!" We went back to his place and made out for a bit in his room. I could barely walk or talk and just wanted to go home and sleep. When I went to the door, he physically blocked me - he wouldn't let me leave. He walked me</p>	<p>masc perp, DFSA, power-social, force, AC-unable to confirm, unaware, VS impact, CTA-response</p>	<p>call for education and learning about GV/power topics</p>

to the bed where I laid down. I was scared of fighting back - that I could get hurt. I passed out as he put himself in me. I was in and out of consciousness but I vaguely remember telling myself if I just laid there, it'd be over soon. I have PTSD from that experience. I didn't really date or hook up from that point on in college. I thought it was a bad one night stand. It wasn't until my Intro to GWST class over a year later that I realized it was rape. I graduated over five years ago and I still have night terrors about that night. I'm no longer friends with my sorority sister linked to thank night. She was my best friend in the house but over time I came to associate her with that experience. She abandoned me and I ended up getting assaulted. I never told her it happened... I still blame myself so I don't even know what I would say. "I needed you to help me get home safe and you couldn't do that and look what happened...?" I know it's not entirely fair to hold it against her, but I just can't forget that she left me. I don't want to know her. And it makes me sad. Everyone at Downtown University should take Intro to GWST and learn about sexual violence. That class gave me a name for what happened to me and helped give me my agency back.

118	<p>I was a freshman when this had happened. I was hanging out with my best friend in our dorm. It was late at night and we were just watching movies when she got a text from a boy she was talking to, who was a senior, and asked if we wanted to hang out with him and his friend. I didn't think anything of it and was told we were just going to chill and watch movies. So I agree and we walk over to his house off campus. We get there and the guy and his friend said they were getting in the hot tub and asked us to join them. I pulled my friend aside and said we don't have swim suits. The guys best friend over heard me and said "your underwear is just a bikini" she agreed and I finally gave in. We went outside to the hot tub. We all just casually talk. The guys friend then pulls me to his lap. I immediately become uncomfortable and just laugh it off because I didn't want to kill the mood. My friend and her guy start making out with each other. I pretend to be falling asleep to avoid anything. He tries to finger me under the water. I was a virgin so it wasn't working. He then asks me if I want to go inside. I quickly turn to my friend and I said I couldn't leave my friend alone. She then encouraged me to go. I gave her a look like "no" but I was then carried out of the hot tub and to some random room. Where he proceeded to try to have sex with me and it wasn't working because I was a virgin and not turned on at all. But he said "he will make it work". He has sex with me. And the whole time I just looked at the ceiling wishing it was over feeling disgusted. He forces me to do oral holding my head down until he finishes.</p>	freshman, SA, masc perpetrator, power-social, pressure, force	
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	<p>My friend and I leave soon after he has sex with me and she is hyping me up and asking for details. I play It off as whatever. We got back to our dorm and I locked myself in the bathroom and cried. I didn't feel like myself looking in the mirror and I felt used and disgusting. I rinsed out my mouth over and over again all while shaking uncontrollably. I sat on the floor, wipe my tears, and clean my act to go continue to watch movies with my friend in our room as if nothing ever happened.</p>		
119	<p>My freshman year my friends and I went to the bars, we were all pretty drunk and still drinking. At one point I realized I lost my friends, was very drunk and my phone had died so I decided to just go back to my dorm. As I was walking out of the bar this guy I recognized from my dorm started talking to me and said he was going back to [residence hall] (also my dorm) and that we should uber together. It was winter and I didn't want to walk home alone so I decided to go with. I don't remember how we got up to his room, or when my clothes came off. Next thing I know he was on top of me, I was so stunned I couldn't move. I didn't know what to do. He was aggressive and it hurt, I could feel tears running down my face. As soon as he was done he got up and said he was going downstairs because he had ordered food. After he left I put on my clothes and ran out of his dorm. Once I got to my room I broke down, I couldn't stop crying. I never knew his name or saw him again after that.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, freshman, DFSA, power-social, AC-unable to confirm</p>	

120	<p>I was hanging out with my friend when we got invited to hang out with her 3 guy friends. We then climbed into a car and go hang out with another 2 of their friends. So there was 2 freshman girls and 5 guys mix between junior and senior. I walk in and the guys immediately start making comments about my body and ass. Growling at me. Whistling at me. One had even taken a picture of my ass. This is the first time I've meet any of these guys. We all move downstairs to hang out... One guy asked me to follow him so he can show me his bedroom. I check out his room and tell him it was pretty cool. He then whispers in my ear and says "if I stay at his house any longer, I won't have a choice but I'll be in his room getting fucked on his bed..." I laugh it off as a joke and then he grabs both my wrists and pulls me to his body where he kisses my neck and lets me go. I didn't turn around to look at him and just walk forward back to everyone else. I was anxious and scared. I started feeling sick and couldn't breathe. He came out and sat with everyone like he didn't just threaten me. I get an Uber and tell everyone that I have to go because I forgot I had a lot of homework.</p>	power-social, HA, masc perpetrator, SA	
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121	<p>There is this guy in my class I was becoming pretty friendly (key word: friend) with and was just hanging out with on occasion (usually always in a public place, I only followed him into his dorm for him to grab something once and didn't let him in mine/made excuses. I didn't want him to get the wrong idea). He was a nice friend and I feel kind of lonely here at Downtown University. I don't have a strong friend group and just have friends scattered across. So I am kinda desperate to make friends and this was no different. Anyways, it was all fine and he was a nice friend to just hang out with and do homework with until last night. He had been drinking all day with his friends apparently and was really tipsy. That's when I started to feel uncomfortable around him.... I didn't find out until we'd already started walking to a friends' dorm. It was just really uncomfortable walking with him in the dark and he kept reaching out and touching me (brushing his arm against me, putting it around me, bumping into me in what seemed purposeful?). And he kept looking over at me and staring at me for prolonged periods of time... (I purposefully pretended not to notice and didn't make eye contact because I was a little scared at this point and we were walking alone in the dark and we're still far from the dorm we were walking to). Anyways, throughout the whole night where we were just sitting with a group of friends and acquaintances and chatting/doing hw, he just made me feel weird and uncomfortable. And I don't like that he kept putting his arm around me and</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift, HA, VS imapct</p>	
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	<p>brushing his fingers against my skin for no reason. I don't know if he was acting like this because he was tipsy or what (I don't even really drink much so I don't know) but it just made me feel very weird and now I don't know if I want to even be friends with him anymore. Now I have to see him in class and I don't know if I should ignore his calls and texts or continue hanging out with him. He didn't "sexual assault" me or anything, obviously... He just made me feel very uncomfortable and I'm not sure if I'm overreacting or if he didn't notice or if I'm just stupid and making something up out of nothing? I have no idea. I'm just confused and kind of scared to be around him now in case he continues to act like that. But then again, I have almost no friends so I don't want to cut one off if I'm making this up or nothing even happened really. I'm just so confused and feel so weird now.</p>		
122	<p>My freshman year, I got really caught up with hook-up culture. I thought that's what college was about and needless to say one night I found a guy who would become a regular hook up. He would spend money on me and honestly made me feel like he really cared... We had consensual sex but one night, he took me somewhere in his car. I thought it was romantic but after getting me drunk (and I having no way to get to my dorm) I followed his orders when he demanded I get naked. He shoved lotion in my ass and proceeded to have non-consensual anal with me. I was so upset and scared because I could not run away in the middle of downtown. I broke things off</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift, SA, VS impact, power-social, FSL</p>	

	<p>as soon as I met my current boyfriend and he has since left the school, but I often times think about how badly I felt and how I could not go to the bathroom without bleeding or having excruciating pain for two weeks. I felt used and disgusting. He put me in so much pain and yet he was loved by so many for being a popular frat guy...</p>		
123	<p>I'm a law student at Downtown University. My first year I was approached by a third-year who was very assertive and made me uncomfortable. He tried to use his "experience" to offer me "advice" but I wasn't interested at all. I lived close to school at that time and noticed he had started watching the direction that I walked in when he was smoking on the corner of Asbury, so I started walking home in various directions. One day across to the other side of the street when I saw him and he ended up following me, running to catch up and coincidentally "walking home" in the same direction. I said goodbye at a building that wasn't my own because I was genuinely uncomfortable and he told me he wasn't leaving until he got my number. I panicked in the moment because this was someone I had to be in the same building with every day that year, so I gave it to him. He proceeded to text me every day, add me on all social media, and send me messages when I was in the library from class saying "you look nice today" or other unsolicited things. I ended up trying my best to avoid him as much as possible that year and eventually blocked him on everything but that year was really hard</p>	<p>power-social, masc perpetrator, ST, VS impact, freshman</p>	<p>power - perpetrator went on to become a practicing lawyer</p>

	<p>already and the situation, amongst others, made it 10X more difficult... The law school has such an awful history with stocking and sexual violence when it comes to their own students that I knew early on nothing was to be done, but it breaks my heart to know that this person is an attorney practicing law.</p>		
127	<p>During my freshman year, I became friends with a guy who lived in the same dorm as me. The guy and I started to hit it off and I thought he was pretty sweet. One night we went to a party. He was plastered and I was sober. He kept hugging me and grabbing my ass. I was incredibly uncomfortable and tried to avoid him, but one of my friends started dating him. One night, a few weeks later, I was plastered and he was sober and he kissed me when he was hanging out with my friend in my room. I was upset by it and tried to tell my friend, but was left without support. I feel ashamed anytime I talk about my discomfort with him because he is still friends with a lot of my friends, everyone sees him as a good guy but I'm so anxious when I see him and I struggle to move past it.</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, power-relational, SA, power-social, VS impact</p>	
133	<p>I have my own stories, but this won't be it. I needed to express my gratitude for this account and all of the brave and strong people who have submitted their stories. The past several weeks have been tough because while reading the stories I realized that I had been sexually assaulted... For a long time I knew deep down that what happened to me with sexual assault, but I</p>	<p>SA, unaware</p>	

	<p>never wanted to talk about it because I was scared that I would be invalidated, or that would suddenly become real... After seeing so many stories that were so similar to mine I felt like I was finally heard, like I wasn't alone. Thank you so much to the admin of this page, to the people who have shared their stories, and to the people who believe them.</p>		
135	<p>When I was a freshman there was a boy on my friend's floor that I was kind of dating but we never agreed that that's what it was. Looking back, there were a lot of red flags that I missed. When we first began "dating" it was because we both spent the night on our friend's floor in Hall's and I woke up to him kissing me... At the time I thought it showed interest and so I went with it. We ended things later that year because we felt like we were not a good couple. Then around winter break my sophomore year I reached out to him to apologize for blocking him completely from my life. Not long after we started talking again there was a night that we hung out alone during winter break. I had had a few drinks, honestly probably too many. When I went to sleep I was drunk enough that I couldn't answer if I wanted my glasses on or not or if I wanted the lights turned off. At some point in the night he began kissing me and I felt his hands groping me. In the morning, I hid from him in my suitemate's room and told him I left for work. Later when I confided in a mutual friend, he told me that he wanted to remain neutral and that the guy involved had said I initiated this. I</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, freshman, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA</p>	

	<p>never felt more defenseless and alone than that moment.</p>		
136	<p>I went back to a guys house after a night out and we started to hook up. I knew the guy, had classes with him and had been friends with him. At that point we didn't have sex and I just decided to go to bed. I fell asleep really quickly and was woken back up what I felt like almost immediately to him on top of me, thrusting... I tried to get up at first but couldn't until I physically nudged him off. I didn't think much of it until I realized later that week when my friends asked if I had sex with him and I couldn't give them a straight answer. I didn't know because he got on top of me while I was asleep, how could I be sure what else he did? I saw him out the next weekend and he followed me around trying to get me to go home with me and kept telling me my friends left so I should just go with him and it broke me down. I had to leave because I was crying so hard. My best friend emailed CAPE for me that night and they emailed her back telling them they'd look out for me to contact them. I thought I didn't need to until that Monday when I saw him in class and almost started to cry again. I emailed CAPE then and they never responded, which is the worst part about it all... I reached out because I was struggling to handle the fact that I was</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, SA, VS impact</p>	<p>let down by University</p>

	<p>sexually assaulted and CAPE, who responded to my roommate ABOUT ME, did nothing when I emailed. I was let down by the University.</p>		
138	<p>I had known him for over a year now. We had been dating for around nine months. I loved him with all my heart and I still struggle to this day with understanding my feelings back then. Since before I started dating him I had been telling him that my faith was important to me and I didn't want to have sex until I was married... On Halloween 2016 as a sophomore that all changed. Him and I and a group of our friends went out, but we weren't really feeling it and decided to go home. I had drank more than I should have that night, but I've been dating him for a while now and we were in love so I figured it was fine. We would just go back to his place and crash... All I remember was leaving the bar with him... The next thing I remember was coming to with him behind me and my face in the sheets. It took me a minute to process the pain of what was happening to me and I was so confused because I had never experienced this before, but I knew it wasn't right. I had no recollection of how I got here and I just knew I needed to leave. I told him I needed to use the restroom and I grabbed a shirt, shorts and my phone. When I got out of his</p>	<p>power-relational, DV, DFSA, AC-unable to confirm, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	

room I ran outside. I didn't know where I was going, but I knew I was still drunk and needed to run, I've always been a runner. I ended up walking around Downtown University's campus until someone found me and brought me home. The following day I remember returning to his dorm to get my clothes and talk to him about it and the fact that I couldn't piece together what happened. I then tried to explain what I could remember about last night and he asked me if he raped me. I was quick to tell him no because he was my boyfriend and I loved him and I didn't want him to be upset, after all... I was just confused. He then change the subject to how he was upset because I left when it was his first time too and I should have thought about his feelings. From that point on, we started having sex regularly because to me it didn't matter anymore. I had already lost the thing I held close to me so it didn't matter. Except it did. We ended up breaking up a year later and it wasn't until about three months after we broke up that I started to process all that was wrong with our relationship. It is now over three years later and I am still struggling. I don't like being touched and every time I get close to a new guy, I freak out and end things. I don't know how to get past it even today. I'm stronger today than I was back then. I know when to stand up for myself and say no. It doesn't mean all is well, but I'm working on it.

139	<p>I went out to the bar with a few friends one night. I had a lot to drink, but I was about as drunk as I have been most nights that I have gone out. I met up with this guy that I had hooked up with before, and he paid for a round of shots and I don't remember much after that... I remember walking across the street from the bar, and I had a brief flash of having sex with him. I remember being slightly uncomfortable after so long. Everything else from that night is a blur. I don't know if I said yes. I think I might have. I was way too drunk to give consent... I'm scared that some thing was slipped into my drink. I cannot form a coherent text to my friends. I don't know if I was raped, but I do know that I could not have given consent with how intoxicated I was... It happened a while ago so I feel like I cannot report it, and I want to assume the best in him because I don't think he would do that. However, I am not sure at this point.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA</p>	
140	<p>I went to the bars with my friends, started dancing with a guy I didn't really know, but he was in a frat with one of my friends. I decided I was tired and he offered to walk me back to my dorm. He kept trying to hold my hand and grab my butt and I kept trying to tell him no, but I was a little drunk and a little scared. He followed me up to my dorm room, at this point I didn't want to open my door and have him follow me into my room, because I didn't have a roommate... I texted one of my other friends and acted like there was an emergency and she needed to come stay with me. I thought that would make it seem</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-social, not taking a no, force, SA, VS impact, FSL</p>	

	<p>like someone was coming and he shouldn't follow me in. I unlocked my door and he pushed me down, I fell on my knees and screamed. My door was still open and he ran. I stopped going out after that and made up excuses as to why I had bruises all over my legs for two weeks... I still struggle to be alone in my house with guys, three years later.</p>		
141	<p>As a survivor of sexual assault, I struggled watching my friend go through and abusive relationship. I never liked her boyfriend and I spent most of their relationship trying to get her to see that what he was doing was assault... I had to sit in class with my friends abuser and not say anything. It was hard for me to be civil in class and I still have trouble seeing him around campus. He is a part of campus leadership for both religious and secular reasons. She is currently pushing a Title IX case, but the university seems more than ready to protect her abuser instead of my friend and all of the rest of us that are uncomfortable with him around in a position of power. I can't really do anything but support my friend while she goes through all of this, but it is so hard.</p>	<p>secondary survivor, power-social, power-institutional, VS impact, masc perpetrator</p>	
142	<p>Downtown University is still failing to protect students, even after all of this talk about the page. I know of at least two members of student government under title nine investigation and admin is doing nothing about the fact that they continue to hold power on campus and make decisions that affect all students, including their victims. I feel less safe because they are allowed to maintain their image and</p>	<p>power-social, power-institutional, CTA-university</p>	

	positions in student government while they are under investigation. Admin says they know they need to do better, but I'll believe it when I see it.		
143	I dated a guy in [Fraternity] my sophomore year. One day after the bars I was with him at the frat house and his best friend called me a whore in front of his other frat friends. My then boyfriend did not do anything to defend me and stayed silent as a broke down in tears. He proceeded to defend his friend throughout our whole relationship and made me feel guilty and ashamed. I developed a really bad social anxiety and couldn't... go out without feeling self-conscious. I still have very low self-esteem. That moment and that night goes around my head all the time and give me really bad anxiety attacks.	power-relational, power-social, masc perpetrator, HA, VS impact, FSL	
144	Just got followed and weirdly shouted out by a man after leaving a work out at the Ritchie Center. I just tried to not listen and get away from him. It's not right that I am constantly worried about situation like this, but I feel like I have to be constantly vigilant, since I'm by myself in the dark. (Also, might be a good idea to make it better later on-campus in general)... This isn't the first time something like that has happened to me on the use campus. And sadly, I'm sure this won't be the last.	HA, masc perpetrator	normalized or expected/accepted expressions of power and control
145	My ex-boyfriend wanted to talk after we broke up so we were on better terms because we had classes together. We got coffee to talk and he drove back but took away I didn't know... He stopped the car in an alley, he pushed the seat back on the	power-relational, masc perpetrator, force, SA	

	<p>passenger side and locked the doors. He raped me and then hold me that he was happy we fixed things... I don't have classes with him anymore but I still see him around.</p>		
147	<p>I was harassed by my boss. I did that "right thing" and reported in hopes of people that claim to be allies believing me; I ended up being forced to resign by my supervisors, forced by HR and Title IX to have multiple "mediations" with my abuser (where I was mocked and belittled in front of them), and then forced to resign. I've been silenced. I feel broken. People that were supposed to be there for me ultimately turned their back on me and people that were supposed to help, took their side... Physically being at this institution is nauseating and triggering. People in these roles that harmed me have since been promoted and coddled and left to do what they did to me to countless other employees (documented). I feel like I've lost myself, friends, and relationships I once cherished deeply. Like everything I once was I no longer am and I dont know how to pick up the pieces. What's worse is that people that claim to be on my side left me at the first sign of me "no longer being myself "and living to their expectation of who I should be. I dont even know who that person is anymore, so what can you expect from me. I was tenacious, determined, and passionate. Now I feel silenced, lonely, broken, defeated, and helpless. I've spent \$3600 on therapy to date just to realize the best thing for my mental health is to leave the space, but then Downtown University would be taking</p>	<p>employee, HA, did report, power-institutional, power-social, VS impact, GN perpetrator, CTA-university</p>	<p>naming of impact of institutional power</p>

	<p>another thing from me. Downtown University has taken so much from me. The University has taken my professional passion, my fond memories of Denver, my motivation and my determination... I'm embarrassed to even receive my dream degree from this institution because of how much direct pain I've experienced and the pain I see others go through constantly. I hate this place. Do better. We deserve it.</p>		
148	<p>He was my "boyfriend "at the time. A foot taller than me and double my weight. I had told him no three times before he held me down and slid it in. I kicked and screamed and when it was over, I stayed. I tried to pretend it never happened. I never told anyone. It will always scar me. My "first" was rape. And I have felt filthy and worthless ever since.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator. power-relational, not taking a no, force, SA, DNR, VS impact</p>	
149	<p>My freshman year at Downtown University I was invited to a fraternity date party by the risk manager of the house. I had a little too much too drink and felt sick at the event, so, he offered to bring me back to the fraternity house. I went back with him and immediately was throwing up in one of the communal bathrooms. That is the last thing I remember before waking up the morning after with my clothes off dressed only in one of his hockey jerseys. I didn't remember what had happened so I hoped that he had not had sex with me. Later that day when I was back home I went pee and a part of a broken condom came out of me. Not only had he had sex with me while I</p>	<p>freshman, power-social, masc perpetrator, AC-unable to confirm, DFSA, FSL</p>	

	was unconscious, but he failed to mention that the condom had broke.		
150	<p>This didn't happen at Downtown University but I'm a Downtown University student so I hope that's ok. I went to a midnight movie with my boyfriend and his friends. I pregame with a friend at du and didn't drink more than I can handle, but enough for a buzz. While at a restaurant before the movie I began to feel dizzy and disoriented. All I had after I left du was water. I don't remember much of the movie... I went to the bathroom multiple times, at one point I purged because I wanted to get what was in my system out. It didn't work. I was with my boyfriend all night so I know nothing had happened there, but I know somehow I got drunk. I told some trusted friends and they all say I just drank too much. I know I didn't just drink too much. I've done that before and I know what it feels like. I feel sick and I don't know who to turn to since I wasn't actually assaulted, and no one believes me anyway.</p>	victim blame, VS impact	
152	<p>My bigger stories of being raped, sexually assaulted, and harassed occurred at another university, at work, in high school, and in the general public. I am a part-time grad student at Sturm, and about a year ago was walking into campus and was cat called, whistled at, and objectified by the construction workers working on campus. Not only do we need to build a culture among students and staff, but we need to</p>	HA, GN perpetrator, CTA-institutional	

	make better efforts to know our counterparts when we engage in contracting. The same standards we hold students and staff to, need to apply to the businesses performing work on campus.		
153	My freshman year at Downtown University there was a group of fraternity boys who were keeping count of how many girls they could surprise with "the shocker..." During what I wanted to be a consensual experience I had this done to me without asking. I was terrified and remember quickly rushing out of his dorm room in [a residence hall]. I found out about the pact the boys had made later when another girl was explaining that it happened to her to with the same guy.	freshman, masc perpetrator, power-social, AC-shift, FSL	social power present in "gamifying" power and control; seen as norm within group
154	1/2: I was raped at the end of my first quarter at Downtown University several years ago. It was the last day of finals and my friends and I were celebrating. We were drinking and having a lot of fun. I was making out with a girl (which was entirely consensual) and considering coming out to my parents over winter break. This guy kept watching us. He wasn't a student at Downtown University, he was the older brother of one of the people in our friend group. He kept trying to get in between us. He kept bringing us more drinks. At one point she fell off her chair and he ended up on top of her on the floor and I threatened to kick him in the face. He got off, but then somehow was in between us. Suddenly I was kissing him and it wasn't what I wanted and I knew I was too drunk. We made him get out from in between us and go away. He kept	DFSA, freshman, LGBTQ, AC-shift, not taking a no, DNR, power-institutional, victim blame, masc perpetrator	There have been a few instances where the msc perpetrator has not liked the response of the V/S following assault, and has lashed out at the V/S (name calling, making it so he was the harmed party, implying it was the V/S fault). How does this intersect with power?

coming back. Eventually she went to her room because she didn't feel well and he offered to walk me back to my dorm from where we were hanging out so that I wouldn't get in trouble with the RAs.... I figured that was a good plan because I didn't want my parents to find out I've been drinking. He knew I was gay, right? I told him at least 5 times that night. Why would he think I want to keep doing anything? We got to my building and he asked if he could come up and have some water. He only had a couple beers but I figured it would be good for him to drink water and I needed to anyway and I thought my roommate was still home and he leave. She was in the library. I was alone. And suddenly I was on my bed and he was on top of me. It hurt. It was scary. I kept floating away (disassociating) and coming back because it hurt so much. I have never had sex and suddenly someone was doing this to me. He wasn't wearing a condom. I remember realizing that about half way through. I don't know how long it took but I was crying. I kept asking him to stop. He acted like he didn't hear me. When he was done he got off me and went to get water from the kitchen. He came back and I was still laying there, frozen and sobbing quietly. He asked if I liked it. How could he think I liked it? I didn't answer. I turned away from him. He called me an ungrateful dyke bitch. I lay there for a while. Either two minutes or two hours. I knew I wouldn't report it, not after what I heard about the way the sort of thing was handled. I've been drinking, after all. I let him come to my room... I wouldn't have

	<p>dreamed of blaming anyone else who had the same thing happened to them, but I really believed it was my fault. And I couldn't imagine telling anyone what had just happened to me. So I got up. I threw away my clothes. I ended up in the shower, as hot as I could make it, sitting on the floor and staring at the wall until one of my suitemates knocked on the door. I got out. I took the sheets off my bed and slept in a sleeping bag because I didn't have the energy to put new sheets on. I say I slept, but I kept jolting awake, terrified. The next day I washed my sheets and flew to my grandparents' house for thanksgiving with my family...</p>		
155	<p>2/2 ...I never reported it. I never told my family what happened since my parents and suggested that I should treat an experience with childhood sexual abuse as "a gift from god" that I could "use to bring others to the light." No thanks. I dropped out the next quarter when I couldn't make myself go to class regularly. I was also added to my parents. I started drinking more and smoking weed more often and taking the light rail to dark lonely place is hoping someone would kill me. I thought about stepping in front of a car every day walking to class. So I went home. Four years later I still haven't graduated from college. I'm watching my friends from that first quarter move on in life and I'm barely</p>	VS impact	

	<p>able to keep a minimum wage in service job because there are days (especially in November around the anniversary) where I can't get out of bed. I have PTSD that severely interferes with my life. I can't go to crowded places without fear of a panic attack someone bumped into me unexpectedly, or I see someone who looks like him, or someone cat calls me or my girlfriend. There are too many effects to list them all... And it took him maybe 20 minutes to do this to me. I wish I had never come to Downtown University. I wish I could forget what happened there.</p>		
156	<p>I attended Downtown University for two years before transferring during a time when Yikyak was rampant on campus and became the target of horrible accusations about my sexual health... My name was everywhere and I felt like I couldn't go to class or walk around campus without people staring at me. I brought my concerns to a panel that was hosted with the faculty and Campus Safety about Yikyak and I was told there was no way for them to find out who the perpetrator(s) were. I still live every day not knowing who wrote the rumors that damaged multiple years of my life. These Yikyak rumors were on the heels of actual physical assault I had received twice during my time at Downtown University.</p>	HA, SA, VS impact	
157	<p>He was my boyfriend at the time, and in the beginning, I was allowed to use our Safe word, but then he started to get aggressive and will yell at me and kick me out if I used it. Eventually, I was scared and just wanted him to love me, so I just</p>	<p>masc perpetrator. power-relational, power-social, AC-</p>	<p>another example of masc perpetrator shifting blame following an assault</p>

	<p>lay there and cried while he raped me. Afterwards, <u>he ignored me for a couple days, and then broke up with me because I had made him feel "gross" and that it was my fault that happened.</u> He graduated a while ago but all my friends and acquaintances remember him and love him... I drunkenly opened up about what happened to a mutual friend and she tried to brush what happened off as a misunderstanding, and that I should have just said no.</p>	<p>shift, force, pressure, SA, victim blame</p>	
160	<p>This quarter, I have experienced two instances of gender based discrimination and harassment. Both have been done in front of my class and no one has done anything to help me. All of these people watched it happen and no one chose to intervene. I was embarrassed and ashamed about my body as a result of these actions. This is taking a real toll on my mental state and made me uneasy and presenting myself to other people. I'm afraid to report this to the University as it does not seem like anything will be done and I will just face another personal toll.</p>	<p>GN perpetrator, HA, VS impact, power-institutional</p>	
161	<p>I was a freshman in 2009 - we were at a frat house "pre-gaming" for our sorority's spring formal when I started feeling off. I then awoke the next morning without a single memory beyond some photos we took as a group. I awoke cold and naked, in my boyfriend's bed. I was on my period and suspected we had sex, despite him escorting me to "safety" from the house. I checked my phone which had several texts from friends who'd seen me attempt to walk to the sorority house where our bus to</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, power-relational, DFSA, AC-unable to confirm, FSL</p>	<p>power of victim blaming, in VS own words, use to explain maintenance of power and control</p>

	<p>the event was waiting and struggle to stand up straight. As someone who barely drank, this was horrifying. I went to the Campus doctor later that day who removed my tampon which had been lodged up so far, I couldn't remove it myself. I was ashamed and confused and never told a soul, never really acknowledging for a decade: while I knew I had been drugged, I never truly excepted that I was raped. Because he was my boyfriend, I assumed I must've seemed lucid at some point but <u>these are excuses to keep victims in a never ending cycle of shame and blame.</u></p>		
162	<p>There was a guy who I had hooked up with a few times previously. One day our weird relationship came up in therapy and I wanted to try and talk to him about it. While we were talking we ended up fighting for a couple days. Finally one night we decided to try and talk again to get over fighting. We ended up making out and after we were done talking, things started to get intense and I had to push them off a couple times. Later I woke up to him drinking the leftover drink I had next to my bed and pressing himself against me. Over the course of three hours he violated me in many ways, none of which involved a condom. The next morning I broke down in the shower while getting ready to meet with my family. Later that day our mutual friend found out that he had no clue what he did to me was wrong... that I was asleep for part of it, and she came with me to buy Plan B. Today I had to go into the HCC to get tested and ended up with getting a shot in two different antibiotics as a precaution.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, power-relational, AC-shift, AC-unable to confirm, not taking a no, SA, VS impact, power-social</p>	

	<p>I've missed a week of class and work already and cried in my academic advisor's office. I don't feel comfortable walking on campus in areas where I know I might see him. I'll miss the weekly improv shows but seeing this person on the team makes it so I don't feel safe there, I wish the leadership would have been willing to at least talk about the member and the situation.</p>		
163	<p>This happened midway through my sophomore year of college. I dated a girl in [Sorority] for a significant part of my sophomore year, and she took me to one of her formals (If you're not familiar with them, sororities make you use their transportation to and from official events, such as formals.) As we were sitting on the bus waiting to leave the venue, I made an admittedly unpleasant joke to one of my friends who is sitting in a row behind me. My then-girlfriend (who is sitting in the seat beside me) heard what I said and in response, slapped me across my face. I have never considered hitting a woman option, period, full-stop. I placed implicit trust in her that since we were in a relationship, we would not lay hands on one another. I assume she had that same view. To me (and I think also to most people), that is just how relationships are supposed to be. I felt ashamed of myself for being upset at what happened - my warped view was that I should just move on with my life and try to forget what happened. Even the amount of time I spent talking with my therapist about what happened that night upsets me because of my inability to move past having that trust</p>	<p>fem perpetrator, power-relational, DV, CTA-perp, FSL</p>	

	<p>betrayed. No matter who you are, please don't hit the person that you're in a relationship with.</p>		
164	<p>Within the first month of my freshman year, I was threatened with rape if I did not "get him off some other way". Easter weekend of freshman year, I lost my virginity to rape. I grew up as a highly competitive athlete and did not have time for boys, so I figured I'd wait for someone I trusted. That spring I had been seeing someone, and when I told him what had happened he got mad at me for losing my virginity to someone else... Our shared friend group sided with him and convinced me I had not been raped. They used my assault as a justification for him dating another girl and lying to me about it. Over the summer I wrestled with all this plus the death of my grandmother and dog, and started sophomore year shaky but ready to make new memories. I moved into the sorority house with a [residence hall] friend who had been helpful freshman year, and we didn't work as roommates as I well as I'd hoped but I didn't think much of it. I started to struggle more and more with insomnia and other issues, so I moved to a room across the hall in order to focus on my health without disturbing her. I found out almost immediately after moving out that she had told several of our mutual</p>	<p>freshman, masc perpetrator, pressure, SA, victim blame, power-social</p>	<p>example of social power working to protect perpetrator</p>

	<p>friends that my assaults were fake or at least exaggerated, made up to get attention and sympathy. We are now seniors and I had mostly moved on from everything until I found out through other mutual friends that she continues to tell people this and insists that all I do is "shit talk" her. I work a full-time job am still a competitive athlete, and could care less about her except to share the story about supporting survivors. The girls who helped convince me I had not been raped were also in my sorority, and one even slapped me over when I tried to talk to her about the emotional manipulation. The sorority did very little to support me throughout all this and I ended up dropping.</p>		
171	<p>I was alone in a study room working on a paper in [residence hall]. I noticed that a man sat down in a chair in the hallway across from my study room at around 11 PM. I didn't think much of it, and when I finally turned in my paper at exactly midnight I was so excited to get to bed only to find this man with his pants around his ankles vigorously touching himself. I used my voice and screamed "what the fuck are you doing? NO." He didn't bat an eye and continued on, staring at me. I've never felt so violated in my own home. To this day I'm jumpy passing a man on the sidewalk or every time someone moves their hand too quickly. I tend to laugh it off with my friends or minimize my situation by telling myself it's not that bad, nobody even touched me. But this has affected me deeper than I could have imagined and I've worked hard to find a sense of peace again</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, HA, VS impact, did report</p>	<p>happens so rarely that the VS questions it.. goes with system pref for power, or power and control to be expected?</p>

	and a part of that process has included seeking criminal justice. I can't help feeling lucky and undeserving that he was criminally charged. This validation does not occur for too many survivors, so why is it happening for me? Am I just lucky?		
172	He slid into my DM, he seemed like a nice guy and I had heard great things about him. One night he came to my room and we were talking suddenly he started making sexual advancements, I sternly told him I did not want to but he forced me, I felt violated and stopped responding to his messages there after. He pretends to be a saint on social media and it makes me sick when I see people appreciating that devil.	masc perpetrator, power-social, AC-shift. force, not taking a no, SA, VS impact	
174	I was sexually assaulted my freshman fall semester at Downtown University. I have been flirting with a guy I had known since orientation... I was invited to go back to his frat house with him. He started to get more and more aggressive with me. After 10 times saying no and saying I did not want to have sex with him, he forced me to do other things with him... And that is the last thing I remember from that night until the next morning when I woke up completely naked not remembering if we had sex that night. After 4 years, pregnancy tests, blood work, depression/suicidal and PTSD later, here is to the boy who sexually assaulted/raped me... You took so much power, confidence and trust away for me. So right now I will take it all back because I am worth so much more than what you took me for.	SA, freshman, masc perpetrator, power-relational, not taking a no, force, AC-unable to confirm, VS impact, FSL	

175	<p>I don't know what's worse losing my best friends over all this or losing myself. It was my sophomore year, over a year ago... But it runs through my mind like it was yesterday. I still feel the bruises he left between my legs. I still cry myself to sleep thinking of him inside me. I still have anger at those who I once considered my friends, who convinced me that it was my fault. Who didn't believe me. Who said I was with him that night because I wanted to be. The truth of the matter is I didn't know him. I had never met him in person before that night. To put it into context had I seen him on my way to class or out in the daytime, I would have never ever even looked up or said hi... The night of my rape I was drugged. I was brought back to his dorm, a dorm I had never been to. My clothes were ripped off of me. I woke up naked on a stranger's bed. I have no memory of any of it. He turned me into someone I don't recognize whose body I can't escape no matter how many scolding hot showers I take. He turned me into a doll.</p>	<p>masc perpetrator, DFSA, victim blame, AC-unable to confirm, VS impact</p>	
179	<p>I finally told my ex-boyfriend that I did it last year that he raped me. I've been holding that in for over a year. I finally found the strength to tell him and it feels like a weight has been lifted off my chest. I am smiling, laughing, delirious. He denies it of course. I never thought I would have had the strength to tell him – but I am proud of myself for doing so. Weirdly enough, going to the BLM protest gave me strength... If I can survive teargas and</p>	<p>Masc perpetrator, power-relational, SA</p>	

	rubber bullets, I can be strong enough to speak out.		
181	I am currently a graduate student at Downtown University my program is one that focuses on human rights and activism. This past year there has been another student in my program who has been actively pursuing Womxn in an uncomfortable way. It has been brought up to multiple professors and the directors from Womxn in the program and the response has been to put the accountability back on the Womxn experiencing the unwanted advances. It has gotten to the point students making contingency plans to not be alone with the student. It's been frustrating to watch how even in programs that focus on vulnerable populations that the classrooms are not safe.	HA, GN perpetrator, institutional power. victim blaming	example of institution failing and instead victim blaming