

Shagun Doshi

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Professor Hays

Research Proposal

Sexual Violence: The Lack of Campus Prevention: Proposal

My topic is regarding the large issue the surrounds sexual violence on college campuses. I was initially intrigued by this issue because even though campus safety has been very prevalent in the past few years, not much has been done to prevent it. While U of I has a seminar for rape prevention and campus safety, many other schools lack the resources needed to teach young adults that are starting their new life on a college campus. This issue is very important, especially in the recent years, because the crime rate has increased among campuses. The crime committed is usually regarding a sexual assault of some kind; not necessary as severe as rape. I don't know a lot about this topic, but I have heard many stories about this topic through the news. One that stood out to me was the UIC girl that got assaulted in the safety of her own dorm shower. It was not only disturbing to hear, but saddening to realize that many aren't even safe in the single place they should feel the most secure. Through this research, I hope to not only educate myself, but also recognize the lack of campus resources to prevent such occurrences and what more they could do.

My research plan is to first go on google and get my initial information. The internet is a good place to get a general overview to understand exactly what I want to focus on. From there, I will go on one of the library databases and get scholarly sources that I can quote and paraphrase throughout my paper. I will use sources that highlight the problem, as well as first accounts, or primary sources, of harassment that college students have encountered. I will search the terms

“sexual assault” and “college” together within the library database to get the most specific articles. From there, I will look through all the articles and determine which one applies to my thesis the best. I will combine various ideas and tips from each of the articles I find to incorporate within my paper. I also want to use news sites to get reports on the campus sexual assaults that have occurred in the past 5 years. With all these differing types of sources, I will be able to construct a well-rounded research paper.

I foresee many challenges throughout my research project. The most obvious challenge would be the variety of information that I will get through my research topic. This subject is very broad and I may have to be more specific in my research. Also finding scholarly sources may be challenging due to the fact that many reports of sexual assault on campus are news articles. The library database will be the most helpful in solving this problem. Since the database is very organized and has a variety of sources, I should be able to get enough sources. While the library database is reliable, I am concerned with the amount of information that will be able to get through the database. To deal with this, I am going to have to make sure I find credible sources through other outlets; such as websites and books. Overall, I feel confident that I can overcome these challenges to create a great research paper.

### Working Thesis

While some colleges may argue that they provide sufficient protection against sexual violence on campus, universities do not take enough preventative measures to eliminate, or even reduce, the occurrence of sexual assault within the campus.

## Sexual Violence: The Lack of Campus Resources and Prevention: Annotated Bibliography

"Campus Sexual Violence Resource List." *Campus Sexual Violence Resource List*. National Sexual Violence Resource Center, n.d. Web. 17 Nov. 2015.

This article was very well organized. The page was split up into 7 different subtopics ranging from primary preventions associations on campus to actual statistics. The article was a resource list of how campuses keep their students safe and prevent rape and sexual violence on campus. It was heavily fact based and didn't have any actual recounts of rape; instead it focused more on the way to prevent and eliminate rape all together. The article named how various departments of the government dealt with this campus safety issue. For example, the American College Health Association has a resource called: Guidelines: Position Statement on Preventing Sexual Violence on College and University Campuses. This web source also included a guide for student activists, law enforcement, and administrators. They provided each group with resources to help further their knowledge and involvement in the prevention of rape on campus. Towards the end of the source, the statistics stated that freshman and sophomores are more likely to be victimized and most victims knew their attacker.

I can incorporate this article within my research paper in various ways. The statistics will provide my topic with more support and credibility, while the resources will give me other sources to look into. This is ".org" website that incorporates many other sources within it. The "org" makes it a source owned and created by an organization. For this specific article, the organization is the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. This organization combines information from many different sources to provide a concise list of resources. They go on to cite each of their sources, proving their credibility through the noteworthy authors they use in the list. This makes it more likely that all the resources listed within the piece are well known and also reliable. The only thing that I am concerned about is that all the resources are online. There were no resources shown that were campus-based; making it hard for me to use it in my paper. This

may end up helping me because it shows the lack of on campus help. I may be able to manipulate the source to better serve to my thesis.

Goldberg, Michelle. "Campus Rape Crisis. (Cover Story)." *Nation* 298.26 (2014):12-16.  
*Academic Search Complete*. Wed.2 Oct.2015.

This article was a popular source from a magazine. The piece started out by shocking the audience with a story from a girl that got raped on her college campus. Much of the article discussed how she came to terms with her situation and where she went from there. Not only does Goldberg tell her story, she also mentions a lot of statistics about the Campus Rape Crisis. She discusses how false accusations do occur, but most likely, the person reporting the crime is a victim. Goldberg goes on to state that there are two specific laws that handle the rape cases; the Clery Act and Title IX. She discussed these two acts in detail, and then went further to review their history and how they were put in place. Goldberg concludes by emphasizing the issue at hand and even compared it to the apocalypse at one point.

This source is very helpful in my research because it includes a first-hand account of this issue; making it a great primary source. Through this article, I also was able to get some background information on the laws set in place for rape victims. I think that this will adequately support my claim and will enhance my research. This article is credible because it comes from a credible and well-known magazine. This source is not scholarly because it's a popular source, but it is reliable. Goldberg's piece is very intriguing and eye-opening and will be a great starting point for my paper. With the various acts, I will be able to set up my claims that I make throughout the paper, it will help the audience get an insight into the general issues surrounding sexually based offenses.

Kingkade, Tyler. "Fewer Than One-Third Of Campus Sexual Assault Cases Result In Expulsion." *The Huffington Post*. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 29 Sept. 2014. Web. 08 Oct. 2015

The Huffington Post article focused on the relationship between rape cases on campus and rapists that actually get expelled from the school. They recognized how rare it was for sexual offenders to receive major consequences. A pie chart created, showed that while many student do get suspended, they still get to freely walk among the same campus that they raped somebody on. Another chart demonstrated that only about 13-30 percent of offenders receive any consequences at all. The author did mention the recent college activists that prompted multiple pieces of federal legislation to address how universities currently deal with campus rape. The overall concept of this article addressed how campuses dealt with the aftermath of rape cases; highlighting the lack of action taken.

This article was a popular source that had a lot the information that I was looking for. I was able to get a general view of how campuses lacked many of the resources even after the incident occurred. I was able to compare this to the previous sources that I looked at that focused more on the prevention of sexual violence. This article highlighted many of the same ideas that I wanted to focus on within my paper. Since it was very different from my other sources, I was able to get another viewpoint on this issue. I never recognized that campuses also lacked resources on how to deal with offenders. I think that I would be able to broaden my topic without making it too general by incorporating this source. I was able to check its credibility because the Huffington Post is very well known and has produced a variety of articles.

Oehme, Karen, Nat Stern, and Annelise Mennicke. "A Deficiency In Addressing Campus Sexual Assault: The Lack of Women Law Enforcement Officers." *Harvard Journal Of Law & Gender* 38. (2015): 337-372. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 2 Oct. 2015.

This text is also very heavily statistics based. The authors divide their research into two parts: The federal response to rampant sexual assault at universities and a deficiency in addressing campus sexual assault. Both of these topics discussed a variety of concerns. The acts

put in place to handle rape cases were also mentioned. This article focused a lot on various organizations that supported men and women that have been victims of sexual violence. These organizations advocate for these people and often provide them with resources to be safe. There also is information on how certain colleges deal with the issue after it is reported. The authors' main focus was based on the lack of acknowledgement. They argued that many didn't see sexual assault on campus as a huge problem, even when it was happening so frequently.

This was a scholarly source from Harvard that has been peer reviewed. It provided me with a lot of facts, but that is all the article consisted of. There was simply an on-going list of facts that often didn't even provide me with the information that I would need. I think that there are certain parts that I would be able to use within my piece, but I would have to comb through it carefully and make sure that I don't use information that does not relate to my thesis. I also noticed that many parts of the text overlapped with the previous text. While having these facts could be helpful, it may bore my reader if I clump all these facts in one place. For my paper, I need to make sure that I use the article sparsely to make sure my readers stay interested.

Siffin, Karly, et al. "Winner of the 2013 Student Poster Competition: Campus Readiness For Sexual Assault Prevention: An Assessment Of Lebanon Valley College." *Sociological Viewpoints* 30.1(2014): 36-48. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 2 Oct. 2015.

This was a study done by college students that were researching how ready a particular liberal arts school was to implement a sexual assault prevention course within their college. They ranked their interviews on a scale of 1-10. The paper started out with a brief overview of the current issue as it discussed statistics and various other key facts about why sexual violence on campus is a huge problem. They even briefly discussed many intersecting topics such as AIDs and greek life. The piece then goes on to relay the information that the students gathered from

their study. They backed up their finding by mentioning the array of people that participated in their study; sharing the specific types of people that partook in the study. The article ended with a short overview of their findings and how the problem of not enough resources within their school was also relevant in other schools.

While this information was very informative and eye-opening, I am not sure how exactly I will be able to incorporate it within my research paper. Since this is a primary source, it allows me to see how they set up the experiment and the students' thought process. This information will better equip me to recognize good experiments within future articles that may not come from as credible sources. Another reason that I may not use this piece is because this experiment was taken at a smaller school, so the results may vary throughout the nation. I also noticed how the theory that was tested was not exactly the research question that I am studying; however a lot of the same concepts apply. Overall, I think there are parts of this article that could be very useful and there are other areas that could make my research topic unclear.

Smith, Tovia. "Colleges Straddle Line Between Assault Prevention And Victim-Blaming." *NPR*. NPR, 21 Nov. 2014. Web. 08 Oct. 2015.

This article focused on one very big issue that makes teaching about rape prevention very touchy. The author argued that there is a fine line between warning students how to stay safe and sounding like they are victim blaming. Many colleges, including The University of Wisconsin and the Ramapo College of New Jersey, have come under fire for the claims that they made to keep their students safe. They argued that there was no correct way to balance this issue. Sometimes being blunt is the only way to keep the students out of harm's way. Many colleges are instead are having their students pledge to be a good bystander by aiding and preventing friends that seem like they might be heading for trouble. Not only does this include jumping in when you witness a crime, but also by telling a friend to not drink anymore if they are already

intoxicated. In the end, the author even claims that until recently, people believed that if a woman is drunk then she is consenting. Only now do many understand that it is still considered rape. The author concluded the fact that some education about sexual assault is provided is more than many have done in the past.

This source will be very helpful with my research. This is the first article that I have found that directly deals with my research question. I think that I will be able to incorporate this text in multiple ways throughout the paper. The most useful part will be where the author discusses how campuses lack in effectively teaching their students safety skills. Although they do discuss some counter arguments, it will be beneficial for my paper to also include them. This source is credible because I found it on NPR, a nationally known radio programming that provides a number of news related broadcasts. This is also a primary source because the article was written based on first-hand accounts. The author wrote out a live broadcast that she made. In conclusion, this article was very helpful to my research. I was able to gather information that would further develop my research topic and make a positive addition to my paper.

Stapleton, Jane. "We Need More Than Transparency; We Need Rape Prevention." *NY Times*. N.p., 13 Aug. 2014. Web.

This article started out applauding the government for passing the Campus Accountably and Safety Act. But, then it goes onto discuss how the act does not include guidelines for evidence based strategies. These could potentially reduce the sexual violence that occurs on campus by teaching and engaging members of the community before and during the crime is committed. This article similarly mentions the bystander intervention. It has shown to be one of the most effective prevention strategies. The author further states how the prevention strategies must not only be taught to incoming students, but also to upper classmen. These programs must be multi-faceted and repeatedly evaluated; making sure they are effective. This article's main message was that although schools are taking more initiative, more can still be done. There is



still a need for new prevention measures because even though many are already in place, none of them are very effective.

This source seemed very well written and was short and to the point. It gave me more direction and taught me how each school has a different way of teaching prevention methods. The article also aided me in finding more information on the acts regarding sexual violence on campus. I have concluded that this source is credible because it comes from a popular media outlet called the *New York Times*. It is also very fact based and provided support for all of their claims. The article was a primary source because the author did all of her own research on the various establishments mentioned throughout her piece. Overall, this article will help build my thesis and provide me with support. The piece also helped me further my writing skills by keeping my words simple, yet impactful.

Wiseman, Rosalind. *Defending Ourselves: A Guide to Prevention, Self-defense, and Recovery From Rape*. New York: Noonday, 1994. Print.

Wiseman crafted this book with the intent to teach. She emphasized that educating women on their ways to defend themselves against their attackers is most likely the most powerful message in this day and age. The book is divided into 3 main sections which you can guess from the title: Prevention, Self-defense, and Recovery. The first section deals heavily with date rape and many psychological factors that go into potential attackers. The second, self-defense, is a section that depicts tactics in which women can escape from any situation. The images go through a step by step process that shows how women can defend themselves if they ever do get into a sticky situation. The final section deals with the aftermath of an occurrence of sexual assault. Since there are still many cases of rape, it is also important to know how to deal with the post-traumatic stress from the crime. A huge list of resources and areas of solace are provided for victims to go to seek help and comfort. The entire book encompassed what all college campuses should be equipped with.

The guide was the most eye-opening and helpful source that I found. I think that the personal approach that the author uses makes the reader want to read further and receive all the knowledge that she is giving. This primary source perfectly incorporates all the information that the author personally gathered from her own research. Although this book was more general than my research question, it was helpful to get a general overview of what campuses should be teaching. It was information that was beneficial for any first time college student and heavily focused on the prevention tactics all should take to ensure safety. The source was credible because Wiseman had an exhaustive list of resources she used to construct her book. This also shows reliability because I was able to look up each of her resources and determine their credibility as well. Even though this book was published in 1994, most of the defense tactics are timeless and the resources listed are still prominent. Through this source, I was able to get an idea of how colleges might teach classes that dealt with this touchy subject. The author was able to get all her knowledge across without seeming like victims were to blame. Finally, the author ensured credibility by proving her own images and finding all her own resources.