



THE HUNTING GROUND

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

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DEAR EDUCATOR LETTER: KEEP YOUR STUDENTS AND SCHOOL SAFE

DEAR EDUCATOR,

Sexual assault is a national issue that threatens the safety of our schools and the productivity and development of our students. Consider these startling statistics:

- Approximately **1.8 million adolescents** in the United States have been **victims of sexual assault**.¹
- **35.8% of sexual assaults** occur when the victim is between the **ages of 12-17**.²
- **Teens 16 to 19 years of age** were **3.5 times more likely** than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.³
- In college, **1 in 5 women is sexually assaulted**.⁴
- Most often it happens in her **freshman or sophomore year**.⁵
- In the majority of cases (**75-80%**), **she knows her attacker**, whether an acquaintance, classmate, friend or ex-boyfriend.⁶
- Many are survivors of **“incapacitated assault”**: They are sexually abused while drunk, drugged, passed out, or otherwise incapacitated.⁷
- And although fewer and harder to assess, **5% of college men say they are survivors** of sexual assault.⁸
- An AAP study of young adults who are victimized in adolescence shows **increased rates of destructive behaviors** in these students such as substance abuse, depression, and suicidal ideation.⁹

As administrators and teachers, this issue demands our attention, as we can make a difference through the education of our students. *The Hunting Ground* begins this process as it tells the stories of young men and women who are victims and perpetrators of sexual violence, and presents unprecedented opportunities to effect social change. Through the viewing of this film and use of its curriculum guide, school communities will gain a clear understanding of sexual assault, its impact and prevention, and how to support those who are affected. Further, teachers and students will engage in substantive discussion and learning about:

- Healthy relationships and **consent**
- The relationship between substance use and **sexual assault**
- Sexual assault and its **impact** on individuals and communities
- Bystander intervention and **personal safety**
- How to **take action** and accelerate change to put an end to sexual violence
- How to seek support and **recovery** as a victim of sexual assault

The focus of the national media has been on sexual assault on college and university campuses, Title IX and the Clery Act. What many public secondary schools don't know is that they too are covered by Title IX. The Department of Education's "Dear Colleague Letter" reminds administrators of all federally funded schools of their responsibilities.

Sexual assault is so prevalent that the White House has created a task force with a mandate to fight sexual assault on all college campuses. **These dynamics of sexual violence are playing out within our high schools as well.** Preventative measures must be taken when sexuality is emerging, so that we can address this problem wherever and whenever it exists, as well as **prepare our high school students for what they may encounter in post-secondary institutions.** The CDC recommends that schools evaluate and implement effective curriculum on dating and sexual violence that is delivered to high school students in grades 9-12.¹⁰

The Hunting Ground centers on sexual assault on college campuses. The harrowing narratives of survivors, the testimony of experts, the coverage of school cultures relating to this issue, and how students are responding in constructive ways for justice will heighten the awareness of students, inspire preventative strategies and thinking, as well as motivate youth to join the fight against sexual violence. This is a call to action to which we must all respond to ensure our students thrive in their learning environments and beyond.

AFTER VIEWING THE HUNTING GROUND:

"The film wasn't shaming of men at all, it got me interested and inspired to help. What would be the best way for me to do that?"

- Senior High School Boy



"I want to know what colleges are doing to keep people safe now."

- Senior High School Girl

"It's just so confusing. Do I know the difference and if what I'm doing is wrong?"

- Senior High School Boy

"I was put in a similar situation and it helped to know that they were scared of being blamed too."

- Sophomore High School Girl

"How can I help?"

- Junior High School Boy

"Seeing those girls tear up and be short of breath got me so much more than a teacher saying, 'Kaylah got raped and it changed her.'"

- Junior High School Girl

