

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

## MYTHS ABOUT RAPE AND RAPISTS

Match the myths to the facts by placing the letter of the correct fact to the left of each myth in the space provided.

### MYTHS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Men are never raped.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. If she really wanted to, a woman could prevent being raped.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. One way to stop rape is to legalize prostitution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Rape occurs because of pornography and sex on television.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Castration is the solutions to prevention of rape.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Prisons rehabilitate rapists.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Rape is the result of sexual arousal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Rapists are insane.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Rape is a one-time-only crime.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Rapists are oversexed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Rapists are stupid.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Myths about rape make rape a simpler problem than it is.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The victim of a rape gets what she asked for.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Only young, beautiful women dressed in sexy outfits are raped.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Women are raped when they are out alone at night, primarily in dark alleys, so if women stay home at night, they won't be raped.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Sexual assault occurs only among strangers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Most rapes involve black men and white women.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. It is easy to prosecute rapists.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Women frequently cry rape--there is a high rate of false reporting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Rape is impulsive, uncontrollable sexual gratification.

### FACTS:

- FACT A: Rape is NOT an expression of sexual desire as much as it is an expression of other, nonsexual needs.
- FACT B: Many offenders are married and are sexually active with their wives at the time of their assaults. Most unmarried offenders were actively involved in consenting sexual relationship with other people at the time of their offenses. Rape is usually a desperate act by an emotionally weak and insecure person who is not able to handle the stresses and demands of life.
- FACT C: Most rapists are not insane. A rapist is a person who has serious problems in relating with other people. When under stress a rapist acts out sexually. The biggest problems most rapists have is the absence of any close, emotionally intimate relationships with other people, male or female. Rapists have little awareness of warmth, trust, compassion, or empathy. Rapists are self-centered. Their relationships lack a sense of sharing.

- FACT D: Most rapists are intelligent. When under stress, the rapist's judgment is poor. Rape is a last desperate attempt to deal with stresses the rapist fears will destroy him/her. A rapist fears loss of control and insanity. They do not think about consequences of their actions.
- FACT E: Offenders who find it very difficult to handle stress and who use sex to handle this stress make the possibility of re-offending very high.
- FACT F: Careful study of the offender will show his/her responsibility for the offense: poor self-control, little respect for others, high stress, and few social skills. Victims include males, infants, and old people.
- FACT G: Rape occurs with intimidation, with a weapon, threat of harm or injury, and/or brute force. Physical resistance by the victim will discourage one rapist, but excite another.
- FACT H: Prostitution is not a solution because the offender is not seeking sexual gratification. Sometimes prostitutes are raped.
- FACT I: The arousal of anger or fear, not sexual arousal, leads to rape. Blaming pornography, alcohol, drugs, and the dress and behavior of the victim are ways the offender shifts the responsibility to something outside of himself/herself. The rapist cannot face the fact that he/she has serious problems which cause anti-social behaviors.
- FACT J: Anger, fear, and rage will continue to find outlets, if not in rape, then in other forms of violence—assault and battery, homicide, and suicide.
- FACT K: Mental health programs are required to treat the underlying causes of why rapists rape.
- FACT L: Rape is a serious, complex, social problem with no simple answers. Rape is a problem at all levels—individual, social, cultural, legal, economic, and political.
- FACT M: Same-sex assault is a traumatic and life-threatening experience for the victims. It is an act of hostility and domination. It includes both sexual penetration and aggression. Same-sex assault is usually more violent than opposite-sex assault. There is usually more than one rapist. Weapons and instruments are used. Serious injury is common.
- FACT N: Studies show that only 2% of rape calls are false reports.
- FACT O: Research shows that 1/3 to 1/2 of sexual assaults take place in the victims' homes. Half of all rapes take place in private residences.
- FACT P: FBI statistics show 3% of rapes involve black men and white women. 4% involve black women and white men. Usually, rapes involve a rapist of the same race and socio-economic class as the victim.
- FACT Q: In 34% of sexual assaults, the victim and the offender know each other. In 14%, the rapist was a close personal friend, a family member, or friend of the family. These statistics are reported cases. People are MORE likely to report sexual assault by a stranger than by a friend.
- FACT R: In 1970 approximately 365 rape cases were reported in Minnesota. Only 23 of the cases were prosecuted. Only 12 of these cases resulted in conviction.

FACT S: Victims of sexual assault are victims of violence. Victims are chosen without considering physical appearance. Victims are all ages, shapes, races and social classes.

FACT T: In studies completed, 71% of all rapes were planned. The rapist planned to rape any person, or sometimes had a specific person in mind. Rapists take advantage of people in vulnerable situations such as hitchhiking, walking alone at night, drunk, etc. Only 16% of rapes were spontaneous.