

Myths and Realities of Rape

Myth	Reality
Someone who gets raped usually deserves it, especially if the person agrees to be alone in his/her date's house or parked car.	No one deserves to be raped. Being in your date's house or car does not mean that you've agreed to have sex.
If someone agrees to allow his/her date to pay for dinner, drinks, etc., then it means the date is owed sex.	Sex is not an implied payoff for dinner or other expense, no matter how much money has been spent.
Acquaintance rape is committed by men who are easy to identify as rapists.	Rape is committed by "normal" acquaintances who seem to be "regular guys."
Victims who don't fight back haven't been raped.	Rape occurs when someone is forced to have sex against her/his will, whether he/she has decided to fight back or not.
Intimate kissing or certain kinds of touching mean that intercourse is inevitable.	Everyone's right to say "no" should be honored, regardless of the activity which preceded it.
Once a man reaches a certain point of arousal, sex is inevitable, and he can't help forcing himself on a woman.	Men are capable of exercising restraint in acting upon sexual urges.
Most people lie about acquaintance rape because they have regrets after consensual sex.	Acquaintance rape really happens -- to people you know, by people you know.
Women who say "no" really mean "yes."	This belief is based on rigid, outdated sexual stereotypes.
Certain behaviors such as drinking or dressing in a sexually appealing way make rape the victim's responsibility.	Drinking or dressing in a sexually appealing way are not invitations for sex.