QUEER FEMINIST READING PACKET 3: RAPE CULTURE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

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| DEFINITIONS  **Rape culture** represents how society blames victims of sexual assault and normalizes male sexual violence. It is a complex set of beliefs that encourage male sexual aggression and supports violence against women. The term also refers to the emphasis on people being taught how not to be raped, rather than being taught NOT to rape. The term was coined by 1970’s feminists.  Sexual Assault is a sexual act in which a person is coerced or physically forced to engage against their will, or non-consensual sexual touching of a person.  Consent: Only YES means YES.  Victim Blaming occurs when the victim of a crime or any wrongful act is held entirely or partially responsible for the harm that befell them.  Slut Shaming is when women and girls are criticized for their sexual behavior, because they are perceived to violate certain traditional expectations for sexual behaviors. | STUDY:  Amstadter, Ananda B., et al. "Self-Rated Health in Relation To Rape  And Mental Health Disorders In A National Sample Of Women." American Journal Of Orthopsychiatry 81.2 (2011): 202-210.  Researchers examined the mental and physical effects of 3,001  United States women who have been sexually assaulted. Some of  the specific consequences that result are Post-Traumatic Stress  Disorder, suicidal thoughts/attempts, major depression,  alcohol/drug abuse, and obesity.  EXAMPLES:  Trump to Billy Bush, "[**I just start kissing them**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-us-2016-37595321). It's like a magnet ... When you're a star they let you do it"  At North Carolina rally, in response to an accuser, Trump said, “She would not be my first choice.”  Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said to the Washington Post, "Mr. Trump strongly denies this phony allegation by someone looking to get some free publicity. It is totally ridiculous." |

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| *Lawsuits Against Donald Trump Unprecedented for President-Elect*  News and World Report Nov 10 by Gabrielle Levy  “But the spate of allegations by nearly a dozen women who accused Trump of sexual harassment or assault at the end of his campaign pose a far more serious legal problem, as does the case of a woman who accused Trump of raping her when she was 13 years old.  None of women who went public last month have pressed charges, although Trump has threatened to sue them for defamation, and doing so could expose him to discovery. And the woman who accused Trump of child rape cancelled a press conference last week in which she was set to come forward for the first time and has since dropped her case.” | ***US election: Trump sex assault accuser speaks out*** **BBC Nov 12**“The former reality-TV show contestant Summer Zervos, who had previously accused president-elect Donald Trump of sexual assault, has released another statement. Mr Trump denied Zervos' original claim, in which she said the businessman had kissed her and touched her without consent.  After more women came forward with similar claims, Mr Trump said they were liars who would be sued after the election.  In her most recent statement, Zervos said she was the target of abuse and harassment after Mr Trump called her a liar. She did not specify from whom she received abuse, or imply that Mr Trump or anyone from his team deliberately orchestrated it.  She asked him to retract his statement. "Even though is hard and painful to go up against the most powerful man, I will continue to speak the truth and I refuse to be intimidated into silence."” |

Pending:

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| Period and homelessness video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABch4VYOJZ0> | The Mask You Wear Trailer  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc45-ptHMxo> |