



## MEMORANDUM

To: Parents  
From: S/HE Staff  
Re: Ways to start the conversation about sexual assault  
Date: January 7, 2016

You may find talking to your child about sexual assault very difficult. But you can use the following as a script or paste it into an email or note to your child. The important thing is that you start a conversation. If you have trouble doing that, print out the various S/HE memos on the subject and give them to your child to read.

### Introduction for Boys:

Sexual assault in college and high school is much more common than people think. In a study published in 2014, 18% of the boys reported that someone had tried to force them to perform a sex act against their will while they were in high school or college. That's almost 1 in 5 boys! In the vast majority of cases, the perpetrator was someone the boy knew.

### Introduction for Girls:

Sexual assault in college and high school is much more common than people think. In a study published in 2015 surveying 27 prominent colleges and universities, 23% of the women reported being sexually assaulted in college. In a study of incoming freshmen at a prestigious New York private university, 28% of the young women had suffered an attempted or completed rape while in high school. In the vast majority of cases, young women are sexually assaulted by someone they know and should be able to trust. Most cases involve the victim being incapacitated by drugs or alcohol. The most common places to be sexually assaulted are at a party or on a date.

### Remainder for all children:

I'm not saying you cannot have fun in college and high school. But I am saying that you need to be aware of what can happen there. I want you to learn about things you can do to reduce the risks. I also want you to know that you can come to me if anything does happen, and I will be there for you. I promise that:

- I love you unconditionally. I will love you just as much then as I do now.



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- Your attacker will deserve 100% of the blame. It will never be your fault no matter what the circumstance. I will not blame you in any way.
- I will be there for you and will help you. I will not do anything you do not want me to do.
- I won't ask any questions and will listen to what you want to tell me.

Please visit the following website to learn more. [www.securehighered.com](http://www.securehighered.com).