



### CRITICAL THINKING

How might a person go about making a personal safety plan? What might be included in the plan?

**DID YOU KNOW?** Sexual or sex harassment is not yet punishable by a prison sentence. Yet, because society is becoming aware of how wrong any type of harassment is, there will likely be harsher punishment for this crime in the near future.

parties that have no one supervising them. Do not go to parties where you do not know most of the people very well.

Believe it or not, rape is never OK, even in a party or date situation. Criminal behavior is illegal and wrong all the time. It doesn't matter what anyone else thinks: you can have control over your own behavior. You know what is wrong and what is right. If you have been date raped, you need to press charges.

**Can you be raped by your spouse?** In the past, most state laws said no. Most states said that it is more important that a spouse have the right to have sex with his or her partner. However, more and more states are now changing their laws. People are realizing that the rights of a person not to have sex should always be protected.

Sex needs two people who agree every time, not just some of the time. Otherwise, a rape has taken place.

We understand that many rapists rape again. Their behavior becomes a pattern. That is why a victim who can put a rapist in jail will be helping to save other people from this violent crime.

### Sexual Harassment

**What is sexual harassment?** Sexual harassment happens any time one person touches another person's body, talks about sex to them in an unwelcome way, or looks at your body in a way that makes you upset. It can be your boss saying you must have sex if you want to keep your job. It can be a classmate making jokes about private parts of your body.

**Where does sexual harassment happen?** It happens almost everywhere. It is a growing problem in workplaces and in schools. A student who has been harassed, may have a problem about wanting to return to school.

**Is sexual harassment against the law?** In many cases, sexual harassment is a criminal act. It is definitely against the law for an employer to demand sex so that you can keep your job. Although you cannot usually have someone sent to jail for sexual harassment, you can certainly bring charges against the person. If the person is found guilty, he or she may have to pay a fine. A fine is a punishment, too. For example, one man brought charges against his female boss. He said she had bothered him for six years. He won the case.

**What if sexual harassment happens in school?** Does your school have a way to handle people who commit sexual harassment? If it does, find out what it is. If it does not, here are some things that you and your friends can do:

➤ ■ If anyone at school (a teacher, a student, or a security guard) is harassing you, tell that person what you are feeling and that you want the person to stop.

■ If the person does not stop, then go to someone above that person, perhaps the principal or a school counselor, with a list of things that happened. The list should say what, when, where, and who. Also,

**EYE OPENER** The present focus is on sexual harassment of women by males. Yet, in the United States, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission report said that in 1992 claims of sexual harassment were also filed by men. In 1991, roughly one in thirteen claims were made by men.

list the names of any witnesses. List what you said or did to the harasser and what the harasser said or did to you. Finally, don't forget to say how you felt about the harassment.

■ If the harassment happens again, go to someone on an even higher level, such as a school-board member or the superintendent of schools. Continue to keep track of the dates, times, and witnesses to the harassment. You cannot report on the crime if you do not keep a record like a reporter.

For example, a student was very upset because people were writing sexual things about her on the school bathroom walls. She complained to the principal. The school did not even wash the walls. It was as if they did not care that she felt harmed emotionally.

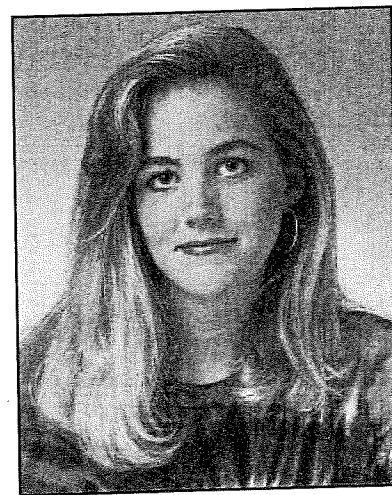
The student sued the school and won her case. The court said that the school had to do something to stop the harassment. Sexual harassment is different from rape. It can be physical or just emotional. But it can include everything short of rape.

Today, people convicted on sexual harassment do not get prison sentences. Yet, the laws are changing and society is taking this problem more seriously. Victims of both rape and sexual harassment feel robbed of their self-respect and of control over their own body. The media have failed to show how sex crimes really hurt individual victims, their families, and all of society.



#### CRITICAL THINKING

A woman met a man and, a few days later, agreed to have sex with him. She requested that he use protection. Yet, he was strong and powerful and, at the last minute, tore off the condom he was wearing. He knew he was HIV-positive. The woman became infected. The court found him guilty of criminal negligence. The judge said that the woman was partly to blame because a reasonable person would not be so quick to have sex. What is your opinion?



### Understanding Chapter 15

1. What is sexual assault, and who can be sexually assaulted?
2. How is a rape trial different from all other criminal trials?
3. What is sexual harassment?



Workbook

Self-Check p.32

Reality-Check p.33



TO LEARN MORE

*Government Today*, p. 97

1. When is criminal behavior illegal and wrong? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who has control over your behavior? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What have most states said in the past? \_\_\_\_\_
4. People are realizing what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When has a rape taken place? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Sexual harassment happens any time when:
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
7. What might a boss say? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How can a classmate commit sexual harassment? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Where can sexual harassment happen? \_\_\_\_\_
10. It is against the law for an employer to do what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. A person found guilty of sexual harassment may have to do what? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What should you first do at school if someone is harassing you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What should you take to a principal or a school counselor? \_\_\_\_\_
14. When you make a list you should say what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. If nothing is done who should then contact? \_\_\_\_\_
16. You cannot report if you do not have what? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Sexual harassment can be physical and what? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What do victims of both rape and sexual harassment feel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Critical Thinking

(pages 74 & 75)

1. How could a woman make a personal safety plan when going to a party?

2. Would you support a prison sentence for sexual harassment?  
Why?

3. What situation might cause a charge of sexual harassment by a man ?

4. Do you believe that a wife can be raped by her husband?  
Explain.

5. If a victim lets a rapist get by with this, what will probably happen again?

6. Do you think sexual harassment happens at school?

7. Should students allow sexual harassment to occur without reporting it? Why or why not?