

Creating Sexual Assault Awareness at MSSU by Anonymous Participation in an Art Exhibit

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Abstract

The issue that this study addresses is the lack of awareness regarding sexual assault in the United States. To address this problem, this study will observe if given the opportunity students, faculty, staff, and guests of MSSU will share their personal experiences of sexual assault to create an art exhibit. The project is developed from a gap in the literature regarding victim interaction within sexual assault awareness artwork. To observe results, mirrors are hung throughout campus restrooms encouraging victims to anonymously leave a mark acknowledging their assault. The collected marks present a general understanding of those on MSSU's campus who have been affected by sexual assault. However, the study does not represent those who opted out of leaving their mark and those who did not encounter the exhibit. The final work is presented unified in MSSU's Spiva Art Gallery for public viewing. The exhibit allows victims to reflect on their assault while spreading awareness to the public to motivate societal change.