

Hear it From Your Students

Your students' insights on this year's prevention programming

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Orientation Season 2018 Feedback:


275 STUDENTS

25 STATES

53 COLLEGES

Every year we ask students to send us their feedback, but this year in particular we received a record number of respondents. The feedback is vital to us as it shows us if we are on the right track and our message is communicated in line with our mission.

In total 275 students provided feedback after seeing one of our sexual violence prevention programs, either [Sex Signals](#) or [The Hook Up](#). The students were spread out over 25 states and 53 colleges and universities.

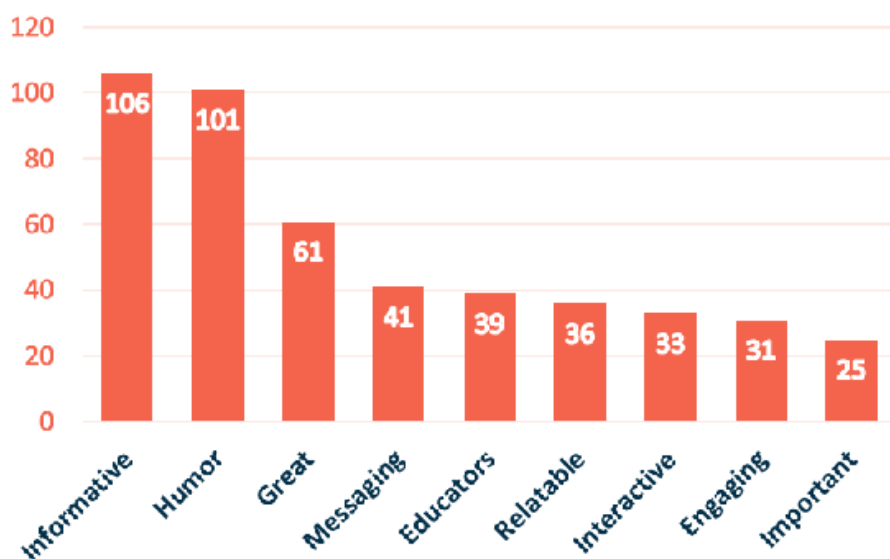


“The program was amazing. The performers were unbelievably funny and had me cracking up with every joke, but they handled the serious moments with equal skill. How sex and consent were presented removed the taboo nature of the subject matter and made it fun and easy to learn about and discuss. I loved that the program was inclusive for all sorts of orientations, people, and relationships, accepting all types of activity (and lack of activity) and only condemning nonconsensual and unhealthy practices. The information provided and myths that are dispelled are all things that aren’t talked about as much as they should be. I would love to see other programs from Catharsis Productions.”

Classifying Feedback

We asked students: “Let us know what you thought of the program.” Though this was an open question we found common themes in all answers. When categorizing the open answers, we noticed nine common terms or themes that were mentioned by the students; some students mentioned more than one of these in their response.

1. Informative
2. Humor
3. Great
4. Messaging
5. Educators
6. Relatable
7. Interactive
8. Engaging
9. Important



Overall we found that the feedback we received showed that the program is being perceived as we have intended it. We share important information about sexual violence prevention and the tools we use to get our message across using **humor**, meeting people where they are at (being **relatable**), and creating **interactive** and **engaging** dialogue with the audience. On top of this quite a number of respondents mentioned that our educators were great, which obviously makes us very proud of the hard work our educators are doing every orientation season.



“I loved the audience interaction and that it wasn’t just a lecture but something we could be involve in. I love that they can lighten the sensitivity about the situation but still remain serious”.



INFORMATIVE

Most prevalent in the feedback was that students thought the presentations were informative (106 mentions). One of the students said:

“The show was really innovative. I like that the actors weren’t afraid to push the envelope, on what some consider taboo topics, topics of sexual assault and gender norms were discussed in a modern yet informative way”.

To change attitudes, students need to first be able to process a message. Often when talking about these subjects audiences have a tendency to disengage because it makes them feel uncomfortable. For so many respondents to think of the program as informative, suggests that they were open to hearing the message. The programs’ messaging, use of humor, relatability, and engaging manner are ways to break down barriers and make it easier for students to listen to presentations with difficult topics.

HUMOR

One of the main differentiators of Catharsis Productions is that we strategically include humor in our programs. We use humor strategically, in order to help students’ learning, retention and recall of information, because it decreases negative feelings and increases engagement (Martin, Phulik-Doris, Larsen, Grey, & Weir 2003). A large portion (101 mentions) of the students, found it to be noteworthy that humor was part of the presentations. The white paper, [Why They Fight the Facts](#), explains more in-depth the importance of the use of humor in presentations and how humor positively effects the recall of information.

“I thought that the use of comedy made such a heavy topic a lot easier to talk about. I didn’t feel uncomfortable learning more about the subject. I thought that it was great that we were able to have an open discussion about consent. I also enjoyed that the actors incorporated how we can be a part of the solution instead of just talking about how big of a problem it is on college campuses”.

MESSAGING

We are very careful with our messaging, as we know that stories are more easily remembered than statistics. Stories make the information come alive and are far more relatable than dry statistics (Cook & Lewandowsky 2011). Dan Kahan (2007) found that when your students believe that your values are like theirs, they make themselves more open to hearing new and challenging ideas.

“This program was amazing! The performers were extremely entertaining but also knew how to get their message across and drive home an important message. They were direct, hilarious, engaging, and everyone I’ve talked to loved the program”.

RELATABILITY

CP updates it’s programs regularly to stay in tune with the audience and provide realistic examples. Feedback from two years ago, showed us that we needed to be less gender normative, more inclusive, and provide more LGBTQ examples. We revised the script and made sure to implement this feedback.

“I saw this last year and it was great, but it was even better this year because more types of people were included. Being transgender was talked about along with women being raped by women and men being raped by men and what healthy relationships look like. I loved it”.

We look forward to seeing you again in 2019. If you can’t wait to have us back next orientation season, and are interested in a multiple program curriculum, we offer a variety of live and online programs for all students and for staff.

If you would like to know if any of your students gave us feedback, feel free to reach out to fleur@catharsisproductions.com.

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