Talking to Your College Student

Start the conversation: Ask your college-aged child what they think about sexual assault on college campuses.

Did you see the Buzzfeed article? What did you think about it?

Yeah, I saw it. That stuff is awful.

What if that happened at your school? If you saw it happening, what do you think you could do to step in?

Talk about real risks, not myths. Did you know most sexual violence is committed by someone the victim knows?

I had no idea...thought it was usually a stranger. So even if someone is a friend of yours, or a friend of your roommate, it's important to know that they could still hurt you in this way.

Offer your vote of confidence. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable, it's OK to make up an excuse to leave.

But isn't it important to expand my horizons? How will I know the difference between feeling uncomfortable in a good and bad way?

Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference. If you're not sure whether you want to do something sexual, give yourself time to think about it. You aren't obligated to do anything you don't want to.

Part 1

Chat online at: online.rainn.org

Call someone who can help: 800.656.4673