

Hear a Story/Tell a Story

Ever wanted to tell your story about dealing with sexualization--how you live with it, how you push back, what makes protesting hard, and important? Ever wonder what it used to be like for the adult women in your life to be sexualized and what they did about it? Check out how some SPARK Summit participants answered these questions, and then create your own video interview! If you contact us with your project you may be able to see yourself featured on the SPARK website or Youtube channel!

Step 1: What is Sexualization? Why is it important?

A. View the clip from *Killing Us Softly 4*: <http://www.mediaed.org/SPARK/>

B. With a group of friends or peers, discuss the following questions:

- Ⓢ What do you think is the purpose of advertising? How does the purpose of advertising affect the way people are portrayed in advertising? What are some stereotypical stories media tell about women? About men?
- Ⓢ Can you think of some stories or messages not mentioned in the clip? What patterns of difference do you see between the kinds of stories told about women and men? How do you think this impacts girls and women, boys and men?
- Ⓢ In the video clip, Jean Kilbourne mentions an increase in media sexualization, especially in how media portrays and targets younger girls. How do mainstream media define sexy for girls? Can you give some examples of media sexualization that you've seen?
- Ⓢ How are sexualized images in media different from the messages kids receive about healthy sexuality from parents or in school health classes?
- Ⓢ Kilbourne mentions a number of concerns about the media's version of sexy. What impact do you think these images have on girls and boys and on their relationships?

Step 2: Hear a Story Booth Example

- Check out this clip for an example of how some SPARKSummit participants interviewed their friends and mentors about the sexualization of girls in the media.

Step 3: Instructions for producing your own Interview

- You only need 3 items to produce your own interview!
 1. People to interview
 2. A list of possible questions
 3. A video recording device.

Participants have used many types of digital video cameras to record their interviews-- flipcams, iphones, and digital cameras have all been used. If it takes video and audio you can use it!
- This is a list of some questions others have used in their interviews. Feel free to use these, to use the ones from the Kilbourne discussion above, or draft some of your own!
 1. What do you think about the media's images of sex?
 2. How has the media portrayed women who look like you?
 3. Is there a time when you felt sexualized or objectified? How did you handle it?
-or- What do you wish you had done?
 4. If you could say something back to the media what would you say?

Step 4: Send us your Interview!

We would LOVE to see your interview! First, get permission to send it to us from each person whose face or voice appears on camera.

Second, you can edit it yourself or send it to us for some minor editing. If you want to send us a copy of your video email the ASAPInitiative at: ABaker1@gc.cuny.edu and we will forward you some instructions for how to send it to us via the internet.

Some videos may be chosen to appear on the SPARK website or Youtube channel!