

Directions for this week's AoW

We are going to use the AoW in a completely different way this week. You will read a different article for each day of the week (Monday through Thursday.) You will then write out the enthymeme as well as the warrant for each article. You will also highlight and annotate pertinent information in each article that leads you to your enthymeme and/or warrant. Waiting until Thursday night is not a good idea.

Use this article as an example.

Nothing Liberating About Being Wasted | Koren Zailckas

Koren Zailckas is the author of "Smashed, Story of a Drunken Girlhood," and, most recently, the novel "Mother, Mother." She also visits colleges as an alcohol education lecturer

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Alcohol is the No. 1 date-rape drug. That's not victim-blaming, or anti-women (let the record show a large portion of male victims have been drinking at the time of their sexual assaults too). It's simply a fact. The vast majority of campus rapes happen when the rapist, the victim or both are drunk.

And so alcohol education is essential for students of every gender.

Blacked out, browned out, burned out, I couldn't make even basic needs known, let alone "I'm a virgin" or "I'm just not that into you" or just, "No!"

Even when willing partners are sober, communication about sex can be fuzzy. We don't sit down and make a Venn diagram of what we want and don't want. Once heavy drinking enters the picture, all nuance disappears. Smashed people converse without any give and take and precious little listening, shouting toward each other as if on separate mountaintops in a heavy fog.

In my time as a 19-year-old binge drinker, it was impossible to even be aware of anyone else around me, let alone gauge what they wanted from me in an intimate context. Blacked out, browned out, burned out, I couldn't make even my most primal needs known. It was hard enough to slur "must sleep" or "I'm going to get sick," let alone "I'm a virgin" or "I'm just not that into you" or even just, "No!"

Date rape is wrong no matter if the victim is sober or passed out. But it's important to remember that it can occur when someone schemes to have sex with a near-corpse or when two drunken people drift into a situation that one of them does not want.

grounds personal anecdote

# Grounds

Binge drinking, whether we're male, female, straight, gay or one of many shades of gray, dulls our senses and slows reaction times, making it harder to identify our comfort zones until we're frightfully outside of them.

But date rape, devastating as it was, was only one horrible consequence of my college habits. I felt degraded by not knowing how to feel comfortable in a crowd without a drink in my hand, not knowing how to meet new people without a proffered shot, not knowing how to express romantic interest without slurring sweet nothings in some poor boy's ear.

Some may talk about the freedom to drink as heavily as the guys. But in my experience, getting blind drunk was the opposite of liberating. By the time I quit drinking at 24, I felt emotionally like I was 14, the same age at which I'd had my first drink.

**Enthymeme:** College students should not get drunk in social settings because alcohol often leads to date rape.

**Warrant:** It is the responsibility of the individual to do everything possible to prevent unfortunate situations that can lead to rape or other crimes.

Remember that the warrant is often unstated.