

# Power Imbalance and Consent

## Consent

- Freely Given
- Informed
- Enthusiastic
- Revoked at any time

Agreeing to something under duress or without sufficient understanding is **not** valid consent.

## Power Differentials

- Teacher-Student
- Boss-Subordinate
- Coach-Athlete
- Age Differences
- Social Status
- Economic Disparities

## Pressure

- Creates an environment where saying “no” is risky.
- Accepting inappropriate behavior because everyone else seems to ignore it.


## Coercion

- Using emotional manipulation, such as threats of self harm, to pressure you into sexual activity.
- Isolation
- Controlling access to money, medical care, or basic needs as a means of control.


## Fear of Saying No

- What will happen if I say no?
- Retaliation


## **Power Imbalance Can Look Like:**




A student asks for a ride home because they do not own a car. The owner of the car, a fellow student, asks them for a kiss in exchange.




A lecturer in a department is well-known for making flirty jokes at their students. Other students warn you against reporting this behavior, and say, "That's just how they are."



A professor removes a student from a research project after the student declines a lunch invitation. The student accepts the next invite, because they're afraid of losing further opportunities.



A student is afraid to tell others about their professor touching their thigh, because the professor is the chair of the external internship committee and can prevent them from getting a good internship.



A student agrees to continue dating someone because that person has threatened to harm themselves if they break up.