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Race, Attire, and Perception of Sexual Harassment Victim Culpability

Eliza A. Murray⁸

The purpose of the present study was to determine if there were significant differences in how college students perceive culpability for sexual harassment victims as a result of varying victim race (e.g. African-American and Caucasian) and attire (e.g. revealing attire and non-revealing attire), a perceived indicator of promiscuity. The hypothesis was that participants would perceive the African-American sexual harassment victim wearing revealing attire as more culpable than the African-American victim wearing non-revealing attire, the Caucasian victim wearing revealing attire, and the Caucasian victim wearing non-revealing attire. The present study was a 2 (Race) x 2 (Attire) within-participants design that included four target vignettes, which differed according to sexual harassment victim race and attire, four filler vignettes, which differed according to bullying victim race and attire and distracted from the true purpose of the experiment, and a nine-item victim culpability survey. The results of this study indicate that there were no significant differences in ratings of victim culpability for African-American victims wearing revealing attire and Caucasian victims wearing revealing attire. However, there was a significant difference in the ratings of victim culpability for victims wearing revealing attire, regardless of race, such that victims wearing revealing attire were rated as more culpable than victims wearing non-revealing attire. These findings have large implications for college students experiencing and responding to sexual harassment complaints from peers.

Keywords: victim culpability, sexual harassment, race

Sexual harassment according to a traditional classification system includes gender harassment, sexual seduction, sexual bribery, sexual coercion, and sexual imposition (Till as cited in Sharon & Levesque, 1998). These levels of sexual harassment have been updated and condensed to describe two forms of sexual harassment: quid pro quo and hostile environment (Sharon & Levesque, 1998). Quid pro quo harassment includes sexual bribery and sexual coercion, which involves employment being contingent on sexual favors (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, 2009). Hostile environment encompasses gender harassment, sexual

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seduction, and sexual imposition, which involves the perpetrator creating an environment that is uncomfortable through the use of verbal remarks, gestures or leering, and forceful touching or grabbing (Sharon & Levesque, 1998). Hostile environment harassment, specifically gender harassment, is the most common form of sexual harassment and it is prevalent among universities in the United States (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, 2009).

According to Hill and Silva (2005), approximately 41% of female and 36% of male students experience some form of sexual harassment their first year at college. The second most common form of sexual harassment experienced by college students was sexual imposition. Among students who said they have experienced sexual harassment, 50% reported experiencing unwanted sexual contact in the form of inappropriate touching and feeling (Hill & Silva, 2005). Furthermore, the same researchers found that female students were more likely to experience sexual harassment that involves unwanted physical contact than male students.

However, the majority of studies about sexual (imposition) harassment rates fail to show significant differences according to race, especially pertaining to African-American and Caucasian women. According to Hill and Silva (2005), the rates of sexual harassment for college-aged African-American women and Caucasian women were approximately 33% and 32%, respectively. However, Wyatt and Riederle (1994) posited that because African-American women underreport rape in comparison to their Caucasian peers, the rates of sexual harassment may also be underreported. One explanation about the lack of disclosure by African-American sexual harassment victims involves the connection between culpability and gendered racial stereotypes. Gendered racial stereotypes such as the Jezebel stereotype, describe African-American women as promiscuous and hypersexual (Davis & Staples, as cited in McNair, 1996). McNair (1996) posited that the Jezebel stereotype may discourage African-American women

from disclosing their sexual victimization as this stereotype places the blame directly on the woman and her alleged past behaviors. As a result, college-aged African-American sexual harassment victims may be seen by their peers as less credible and more to blame.

Studies examining victim culpability have focused on the theories about attributions, beliefs in a “Just World” (Baumeister & Bushman, 2011), and the influence of perceived similarity to the victim. The fundamental attribution error involves attributing the cause of someone’s behavior to dispositional characteristics, while discounting the influence of situational factors (Heider, as cited in Baumeister & Bushman, 2011). For example, sexual harassment victims may be blamed for their assault because they were behaving “promiscuously.” Conversely, individuals may also possess strong beliefs in a “Just World”, the belief in a world in which the events that happen to people are related to their personal characteristics (Lerner, as cited in De Judicibus & McCabe, 2001). Individuals with strong beliefs in a “Just World” may think that it must have been the sexual harassment victims’ behavior that caused the assault. In addition, past research findings have also revealed that perceived similarity to the victim of a crime predicts whether individuals perceive the victim to be highly culpable (Bridges & McGail, as cited in Miller, Amacker, & King, 2010). Individuals who perceived themselves as similar to the victim of sexual assault rated the victim as less culpable for the assault (Amacker & Littleton, as cited in Miller et al., 2010). Therefore, sexual harassment incidents may cause some individuals to commit a fundamental attribution error or violate individuals’ ideas of a “Just World.” As a result, individuals may place blame on the victim and they may base their attributions on perceived similarity to the victim.

Attire may have a substantial impact on how individuals perceive victim culpability and indirectly perceived similarity with the victim. Past research shows that victim attire may incite

incorrect inferences about the sexual availability of the victim (Johnson et al., as cited in Maurer & Robinson, 2008). Maurer and Robinson (2008) conducted a study examining the influence of attire, alcohol, and gender on ratings of perceived similarity to the rape victim, perceived sexual intent of the rape victim, assigned responsibility for the rape, and labeling the incident as rape. Attire was operationally defined in short vignettes as wearing revealing clothing (e.g. physically revealing), suggestive clothing (e.g. shirts with sexually suggestive words), or neutral clothing (Maurer & Robinson, 2008). The researchers found that suggestive clothing decreased participants' perceived similarity to the rape victim and increased the perceptions of sexual intent, but it did not influence whether the incident was labeled as rape, a form of victim-blaming. Male participants assigned more responsibility or blame for the rape to the victim independent of attire type. (Maurer & Robinson, 2008). Therefore, it seems that suggestive attire does have an influence on perceptions of sexual intent.

Other studies have drawn attention to the media's focus on victim attire to describe reported incidences of sexual harassment among African-American women. Meyers (2004) conducted an analysis of one of Atlanta's local news channel coverage of Freaknik, a large party held in Atlanta for students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). She found that during Freaknik the channel WXIA infrequently reported incidences of sexual harassment experienced by African-American women. When the channel did feature stories about sexual harassment, the reporter often referenced the victim's attire in such a manner to blame the harassment on the woman for wearing such clothing. In addition, the primary footage of the report focused on showing other African-American women dancing provocatively in the streets and wearing physically revealing clothing (Meyers, 2004). In another instance, Atlanta's Police Chief explained to the reporter that she was troubled by the lascivious behavior exhibited

by African-American women. Ultimately, Meyers (2004) posited that the news channel WXIA explicitly attributed blame to the sexual harassed African-American women based on their attire and perceived promiscuity.

In addition to the influence of attire on perceptions of victim culpability, studies have also found that the activation of stereotypes related to promiscuity influenced attributions of blame. Ferguson et al. (2005) varied exposure to a promiscuous or non-promiscuous woman using Jerry Springer clips and sexual harassment type (e.g. verbal or physical) to determine if there were differences in the ratings of perceived trauma and perceived attribution of responsibility. The results of the study indicated that participants' exposed to the promiscuous woman in the Jerry Springer clip perceived sexual harassment victims as experiencing less trauma and participants attributed more blame to the sexual harassment victim, than participants exposed to the non-promiscuous woman in the Jerry Springer clip (Ferguson et al., 2005). Participants exposed to the promiscuous woman attributed more blame to sexual harassment victims experiencing verbal harassment, and slightly less blame to sexual harassment victims experiencing physical harassment, such as groping (Ferguson et al., 2005). Therefore, the activation of stereotypes, such as those related to race and promiscuity, may impact perceptions of sexual harassment victim culpability.

The present study examined whether there were significant differences in college students' perceptions of sexual harassment, defined as unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, and feeling, victim culpability, as a result of varying victim race (e.g. African-American and Caucasian) and attire (e.g. revealing and non-revealing attire), a perceived indicator of promiscuity. I hypothesized that participants would rate the African-American victim wearing revealing attire as more culpable than the African-American victim wearing non-revealing attire,

the Caucasian victim wearing revealing attire, and the Caucasian victim wearing non-revealing attire. I conducted a 2(Race) x 2(Attire) within-participants design that featured four target vignettes, which differed according to sexual harassment victim race and attire, four filler vignettes which differed according to bullying victim race and attire and distracted from the true purpose of the study, and a nine-item victim culpability survey that followed each vignette.

Method

Participants

Convenient sampling was used to recruit 23 undergraduate students using the Lindenwood Participant Pool (LPP). Students were eligible to participate in the study if they were enrolled in LPP participating introductory psychology, sociology, anthropology, exercise science, or athletic training courses. The participants' ages ranged from 18 to 23. There were 13 women and 9 men. There were 51% Non-Hispanic Caucasian, 9% African-American, and 9% Hispanic students. There were 40% freshmen, 27% were sophomores, 18% were juniors, and 13% were seniors. Participants were asked in the demographic survey if they have ever been the victim of peer sexual harassment and 31% of all participants indicated yes and 45% of female participants indicated yes. Forty-six percent of the participants majored in a science related field, eighteen percent majored in communications, fourteen percent majored in business, nine percent majored in human services, nine percent majored in education, and four percent majored in history. Participants received one LPP credit that would be applied to their overall course grade.

Materials and Procedure

Room booking requests, which contained information about preferred room type and study dates, were sent to the LPP. Once the rooms were assigned, a sign up-sheet, which listed available dates and time slots, was posted on the bulletin board across from the LPP office on the

fourth floor of Young Hall. An experiment description sheet (see Appendix A), posted above the sign-up sheet, contained information about the purpose of the experiment, approximate duration, compensation, and principal investigator contact information.

Once the participant entered the Psychology Lab, a room with two desks and two chairs, the principal investigator (PI) informed him/her that the average duration of the study was 30 minutes. Then, the PI distributed two informed consent forms. An informed consent form (see Appendix B) was used to fully explain participant rights, potential risks, basic procedure, and the purpose of the study. Each participant was asked to sign two copies of the informed consent form and retain one copy.

Then the PI gave each participant eight target vignettes to read during the study. Four of the target vignettes (see Appendix C) described fictitious incidents of peer sexual harassment. The vignettes featured a college-aged woman being sexually harassed by a college-aged man. Each of the target vignettes differed according to sexual harassment victim race (e.g. African-American or Caucasian) and attire (e.g. revealing or non-revealing attire). Four of the vignettes were filler vignettes (see Appendix D) which described incidents of a college-aged woman being bullied by a college-aged man. Each filler vignette differed according to bullying victim race and attire. The filler vignettes were used to distract the participant from hypothesizing about the true purpose of the study. The filler vignettes were placed in between the target vignettes.

Each vignette was followed by a 9-item victim culpability survey, which was used to determine if participants attributed blame to the victim in each vignette. The survey featured Likert scale items, multiple choice, and an open-ended item about what the victim should do about the scenario. The survey also featured manipulation checks to assess whether the participants were aware of victim race and attire condition.

After the participants completed the victim culpability surveys, the PI distributed a demographic survey (see Appendix E) which featured age, sex, race, year in school, major, and sexual harassment victim status items. The demographic survey was used to gather information about the participants such that a relationship between perception of culpability and items on the survey may be found.

Finally, the participants were debriefed and given the feedback letter (see Appendix F) which detailed the purpose and hypothesis of the study, and explained that the filler vignettes were only being used to distract from the true purpose of the experiment and would not be scored. This form also contained contact information for a local student counseling center due to the possibly triggering nature of the vignettes. The PI then signed the participants' extra credit slips.

Results

The hypothesis of the present study was that participants would perceive the African-American victim wearing revealing attire as more culpable than the African-American victim wearing non-revealing attire, the Caucasian victim wearing revealing attire, and the Caucasian victim wearing non-revealing attire. A 2 (Race) x 2 (Attire) repeated measures ANOVA was used to determine if there were significant differences in the perceived ratings of victim culpability as a function of race and attire. There were two manipulation checks, items seven and eight, which assessed whether the participants were aware of the victim's race and attire. Five participants' data were omitted from final analyses as a result of incorrectly identifying the victim's race. The other seven items assessed components of victim culpability, such as responsibility and possible blame-worthy behaviors. High scores on item one (*the victim was completely innocent of wrong-doing*) and low scores on items three through six (*the victim was*

partly to blame, the harasser was completely innocent, the victim may have encouraged the harasser's behavior, and the victim should have worn different clothing) indicated high perceptions of victim culpability. Item nine, an open-ended question that asked participants to describe what the victim should do about the situation, was analyzed by categorizing the participants' responses and recording the frequency at which these responses occurred.

For the first item, which asked if the victim was completely innocent of wrong-doing, there was a significant difference in ratings of victim culpability for victims as a function of attire, $F(1,15)=6.483$, $p=.022$, $d=.30$. Victims wearing revealing attire were rated as more culpable ($M=2.156$, $SD=.253$) than victims wearing non-revealing attire ($M=1.750$, $SD=.214$).

For the second item, which asked if the harasser touched the victim because that was what the victim wanted, there was a significant difference in the ratings of victim culpability. There was a main effect of attire, $F(1,15)=6.505$, $p=.022$, $d=.303$, such that victims wearing revealing attire ($M=4.095$, $SD=.242$) were rated as more culpable than victims wearing non-revealing attire ($M=4.438$, $SD=.157$).

For the third item, which asked if the victim was partly to blame for the harassment, there was a significant difference in the ratings of victim culpability. There was a main effect of attire, $F(1,15)=19.286$, $p=.001$, $d=.56$ such that victims wearing revealing attire ($M=3.250$, $SD=.262$) were rated as more culpable than victims wearing non-revealing attire ($M=4.281$, $SD=.209$).

For the fourth item, which asked if the harasser was completely innocent of wrongdoing, there was not a significant difference in the ratings of victim culpability as a function of victim race, $F(1,15)=2.882$, $p=.110$, and attire $F(1,15)=.041$, $p=.843$.

For the fifth item, which asked if the victim encouraged the harasser's behavior, there were significant differences in the ratings of victim culpability. There was a main effect of attire,

$F(1, 15) = 9.460, p = .008, d = .39$ such that victims wearing revealing attire ($M = 2.938, SD = .322$) were rated as more culpable than victims wearing non-revealing attire ($M = 3.719, SD = .262$).

There was also a marginally significant main effect of race, $F(1, 15) = 3.809, p = .070, d = .20$ such that African-American victims ($M = 3.188, SD = .322$) were rated as more culpable than Caucasian victims ($M = 3.469, SD = .287$).

For the sixth item, which asked if the victim should have changed her clothes, there was a significant difference in the ratings of victim culpability. There was a main effect of attire, $F(1, 15) = 10.444, p = .006, d = .41$ such that victims wearing revealing attire ($M = 3.219, SD = .270$) were rated as more culpable than victims wearing non-revealing attire ($M = 4.063, SD = .182$).

For the ninth item, which asked what the victim should do about the situation, twenty participants indicated that the victim should leave the party or verbally respond to the harasser. Three participants indicated that the victim should change her clothes. Out of these three, two of these comments were in reference to the African-American victims. Lastly, five participants indicated that the victim should tell someone about the situation.

Aversive events during the study included one participant disclosing the true purpose of the study with another participant.

Discussion

The hypothesis that participants would rate the African-American victim wearing revealing attire as more culpable than the African-American victim wearing non-revealing attire, the Caucasian victim wearing revealing attire, and the Caucasian victim was not supported. One possible explanation for this finding is that race was a less salient feature of the vignettes. Even with the manipulation checks, stereotypes related to African-American women that may have influenced ratings of culpability may not have readily come to mind. This may be due to two

factors related to stereotype activation and the Jezebel stereotype itself. For stereotypes to be activated, members of the stereotyped group must behave in a way that either confirms or disconfirms the stereotype. The vignettes only referenced the victim's race by skin color and contained no information about the victim's behavior that may have confirmed the existence of the Jezebel stereotype. In regards to the Jezebel stereotype, researchers posit that this stereotype combines race, gender, and class, and may therefore be specific to working class African-Americans (Staples & Davis as cited in McNair & Neville, 1996). The Jezebel stereotype may not have been activated because the target vignette victims were college students who presumably were of a middle-class background.

In addition, non-prejudiced participants may have been aware of stereotypes related to African-American women, but they used the conscious system to override the influence of these stereotypes (Baumeister & Bushman, 2011). The use of the conscious system to override the influence of stereotypes may be related to social desirability. Participants may have been acutely aware that the study involved race and victim culpability, which may have influenced their responses in regards to the African-American victims. Furthermore, the majority of the participants majored in a science, communications, and business and throughout the course of their study became aware of the harmfulness of racial prejudices and stereotypes.

However, there was a main effect of attire such that for four items, regardless of race, the victims wearing revealing attire were rated as more culpable than the victims wearing non-revealing attire. One possible explanation for this finding is that attire readily influences college students' perceptions of sexual intent, which is in accordance with Maurer and Robinson's (2008) findings that suggestive attire influenced perceptions of sexual intent for date rape

victims. Furthermore, attire was vividly described in the target vignettes (e.g. tight red leather pants), whereas race was only referred to by skin color.

In addition to the main effect of attire, there was also a marginally significant main effect of race only on item five, such that regardless of attire, African-American victims were rated as more culpable than Caucasian victims. This finding may have occurred because this item specifically addresses the victim's behavior, which in the vignettes is only described as attending a party and dancing alone until the assault occurs. There is not much information about the character of the victim, which may have led the participants to speculate about what the victim may have done to encourage the harassers' behavior. Therefore, the Jezebel stereotype or other racial stereotypes may have influenced the higher culpability scores for the African-American victims. A larger sample size may have allowed this item to be significant at the $p=.05$ level.

Participants' responses on the open-ended item reflected the setting and the non-verbal response of the victims as the majority of the participants indicated that the victim should leave or verbally respond to the harasser. The recommendation to verbally respond to the harasser is in accordance with Sigal, Braden-Maguire, Patt, Goodrich, & Perrino's (2003) findings that an active coping style, such as directly confronting the harasser or reporting the behavior was perceived as more effective than a passive coping style, such as ignoring the harasser's behavior. Interestingly, the majority of university female sexual harassment victims do not respond assertively to the perpetrator in terms of direct confrontation and reporting the incident (Gruber & Smith, as cited in Sigal et al, 2003). Three participants indicated that the victim should change her clothes. Furthermore, two of those three participants were women and identified as victims of peer sexual harassment. This may be consistent with Hill and Silva's (2005) findings that female students who experience sexual harassment are more likely than male students to change their

behavior in some way after the incident. Some female victims of sexual harassment may be prone to indicate high victim culpability responses because of their past experiences and their attempts to protect themselves from future assaults.

The limitations of the present study may include the setting of the target vignettes, the leading nature of the victim culpability survey items, and the victim's degree of resistance.

Firstly, the setting of the target vignettes was a party or social-gathering, in which the victim was described as dancing alone and the assault took place while she was dancing. This description of sexual harassment may be a common occurrence among college students that may have been interpreted as a less serious incident. In future studies, the setting and the nature of the sexual harassment incident may need to be modified to reflect a less ambiguous situation.

Secondly, two of the items on the victim culpability survey included phrases such as victim/harasser were completely innocent. The use of completely may be too absolute, and in future research may be worded in a manner that is less leading. Thirdly, in the target vignettes the victim responded to the assault only using physical resistance. This may have been interpreted as vague, and therefore may have influenced the ratings of victim culpability. In future studies, victim resistance may need to be varied such as physical resistance only, verbal resistance only, and physical and verbal resistance.

Given the prevalence of sexual harassment on college campuses, the results of the present study have large implications. Because female students who have been victims of peer sexual harassment are more likely than male students to experience negative psychological consequences and many sexual harassment incidents go unreported (Hill & Silva, 2005), the need for positive forms of social support is crucial for academic and interpersonal success. Positive social support from the victim's peers, family, and university personnel may moderate

the negative psychological consequences of sexual harassment. Conversely, victims of color may be more reluctant to seek out formal forms of support due to racial prejudice, judgments about her active or passive response to the harasser, and inferences about credibility due to her attire.

Future research may focus on gathering more information about sexual harassment victims of color, their past experiences with victim-blaming and academic success. Furthermore, more research needs to be conducted on the current manifestations and the effects of the Jezebel stereotype on victim culpability for gendered violence survivors using various methodologies, such as focus groups, field studies, and naturalistic observation. Further studies need to also determine whether implicit prejudice predicts race-based victim-blaming behavior. Lastly, primary prevention programs, such as workshops about sexual assault for incoming college students and workshops for university human resources personnel, may need to highlight the harmfulness of race and attire-based victim-blaming and describe helpful ways peers and professionals can respond to sexual harassment complaints.

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Appendix A
Experiment Description

Project #: 13-8

Experimenter's name(s): Eliza Murray

Experimenter's contact information:

Approximate amount of time experiment will take: 30 minutes

Type of experiment (survey, interactive, etc.): Survey

Experiment name: Decision-Making and Blame-Worthiness

Description of the experiment: The purpose of this research is to determine college students' perception of the blame-worthiness of individuals who are involved in various college-themed situations. Your participation will also involve completing a blame-worthiness survey and a demographic survey, which will ask basic questions such as age, sex, and year in school. This study will take place in the Psychology Lab, located on the first floor of Young Hall. The amount of time involved in your participation will be thirty minutes and you will receive one LPP credit for your time.

Appendix B
Informed Consent
Informed Consent for Participation in Research Activities

“Decision-making and Blame-worthiness”

Principal Investigator _____XXX_____

Participant _____ Contact info _____

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by XXX under the guidance of Dr. Michiko Nohara-LeClair. The purpose of this research is to determine college students' attitudes about blame-worthiness and decision-making. Your participation will involve reading vignettes, completing a blame-worthiness survey, and a demographic survey, which will ask basic questions such as age, sex, race, and year in school. This study will take place in the Psychology Lab of Lindenwood University. The amount of time involved in your participation will be thirty minutes and you will receive one LPP credit for your time. Approximately thirty participants will be involved in this research.

There may be certain risks or discomforts associated with this research. They may include uncomfortable feelings that might come from reading and answering certain questions about college-themed scenarios, such as sexual harassment. There are no direct benefits for you participating in this study. However, your participation will contribute to the knowledge about blame-worthiness in college.

Your participation is voluntary and you may choose not to participate in this research study or to withdraw your consent at any time. You may choose not to answer any questions that you do not want to answer. You will NOT be penalized in any way should you choose not to participate or to withdraw. Alternatives for earning course credit are available from your course instructor.

We will do everything we can to protect your privacy. As part of this effort, your identity will not be revealed in any publication or presentation that may result from this study and the information collected will remain in the possession of the investigator in a safe location.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study, or if any problems arise, you may call the Investigator, XXX or the Supervising Faculty, Dr. Michiko Nohara-LeClair at 636-949-4371. You may also ask questions of or state concerns regarding your participation to the Lindenwood Institutional Review Board (IRB) through contacting Dr. Jann Weitzel, Vice President for Academic Affairs at 636-949-4846.

I have read this consent form and have been given the opportunity to ask questions. I will also be given a copy of this consent form for my records. I consent to my participation in the research described above.

Participant's Signature Date

Participant's Printed Name

Signature of Principal Investigator Date

Investigator Printed Name

Appendix C
Target Vignettes

Carla

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

On Monday, it was Carla's birthday. So she decided to celebrate her birthday at a new lounge downtown. Carla decided to wear a short, black sparkly dress that contrasted with her dark black skin. Once she arrived, Carla decided to dance. Carla was then approached by Eric, a classmate, who wanted to dance. Carla declined, but Eric grabbed Carla's waist and placed his hands on her behind and hips. Carla pushed Eric away, but he continued to touch her throughout the night despite her opposition.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Carla is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Eric touched Carla because that is what Carla wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Carla is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Eric is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Carla may have encouraged Eric's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Carla should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Carla wearing? _____

8. Carla's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Carla should do about this situation below:

Scoring: High ratings on question 1 and low ratings on questions 2-6 infer high perception of victim culpability. Questions 7 and 8 are manipulation checks to assess whether participants are aware of protagonist victim race/promiscuity status.

Carla

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

On Monday, it was Carla's birthday. So she decided to celebrate her birthday at a new lounge downtown. Once she arrived, Carla decided to dance and her neon gym shorts that brightly contrasted with her dark black skin. Carla was then approached by Eric, a classmate, who wanted to dance. Carla declined, but Eric gripped Carla's waist and touched her hips and then her behind. Carla shoved Eric away, but he continued to touch her throughout the night despite her opposition.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Carla is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Eric touched Carla because that is what Carla wanted

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Carla is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Eric is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Carla may have encouraged Eric's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Carla should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Carla wearing? _____

8. Carla's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Carla should do about this situation below:

Carla

Please read the story and circle your answer to the questions below.

On Monday, it was Carla's birthday. So she decided to celebrate her birthday at a new lounge downtown. Carla decided to wear a short, black sparkly dress that contrasted with her pale white skin. Once she arrived, Carla decided to dance. Carla was then approached by Eric, a classmate, who wanted to dance. Carla declined, but Eric grabbed Carla's waist and placed his hands on her behind and hips. Carla pushed Eric away, but he continued to touch her throughout the night despite her opposition.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Carla is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Eric touched Carla because that is what Carla wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Carla is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Eric is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Carla may have encouraged Eric's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Carla should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Carla wearing? _____

8. Carla's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Carla should do about this situation below:

Carla

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

On Monday, it was Carla's birthday. So she decided to celebrate her birthday at a new lounge downtown. Carla decided to wear neon gym shorts that contrasted with her pale white skin. Once she arrived, Carla decided to dance. Carla was then approached by Eric, a classmate, who wanted to dance. Carla declined, but Eric grabbed Carla's waist and placed his hands on her behind and hips. Carla pushed Eric away, but he continued to touch her throughout the night despite her opposition.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Carla is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Eric touched Carla because that is what Carla wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Carla is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Eric is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Carla may have encouraged Eric's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Carla should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Carla wearing? _____

8. Carla's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Carla should do about this situation below:

Jeanette

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Jeanette was planning on going to a dance party on campus. Jeanette decided to wear a low-cut red blouse, which accentuated her dark black skin. When Jeanette arrived at the dance party John, a classmate from English, approached Jeanette. John and Jeanette chatted for a little while, and then she excused herself and went to dance to her favorite song. As Jeanette was dancing, John danced alongside of her. He then, quickly moved behind her and his hands grazed her behind. Jeanette shoved John away.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Jeanette is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. John touched Jeanette because that is what Jeanette wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Jeanette is partly to blame for this situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. John is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Jeanette may have encouraged John's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Jeanette should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Jeanette wearing? _____

8. Jeanette's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Jeanette should do about this situation below:

Jeanette

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Jeanette was planning on going to a dance party on campus. Jeanette decided to wear jeans and a t-shirt, which accentuated her dark black skin. When Jeanette arrived at the dance party John, a classmate from English, approached Jeanette. John and Jeanette chatted for a little while, and then she excused herself and went to dance to her favorite song. As Jeanette was dancing, John danced alongside of her. He then, quickly moved behind her and his hands grazed her behind. Jeanette shoved John away.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Jeanette is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. John touched Jeanette because that is what Jeanette wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Jeanette is partly to blame for this situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. John is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Jeanette may have encouraged John's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Jeanette should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Jeanette wearing? _____

8. Jeanette's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Jeanette should do about this situation:

Jeanette

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Jeanette was planning on going to a dance party on campus. Jeanette decided to wear a low-cut red blouse which accentuated her pale white skin. When Jeanette arrived at the dance party John, a classmate from English, approached Jeanette. John and Jeanette chatted for a little while, and then she excused herself and went to dance to her favorite song. As Jeanette was dancing, John danced alongside of her. He then, quickly moved behind her and his hands grazed her behind. Jeanette shoved John away.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Jeanette is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. John touched Jeanette because that is what Jeanette wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Jeanette is partly to blame for this situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. John is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Jeanette may have encouraged John's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Jeanette should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Jeanette wearing? _____

8. Jeanette's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Jeanette should do about this situation below:

Jeanette

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Jeanette was planning on going to a dance party on campus. Jeanette decided to wear jeans and a t-shirt, which accentuated her pale white skin. When Jeanette arrived at the dance party John, a classmate from English, approached Jeanette. John and Jeanette chatted for a little while, and then she excused herself and went to dance to her favorite song. As Jeanette was dancing, John danced alongside of her. He then, quickly moved behind her and his hands grazed her behind. Jeanette shoved John away.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Jeanette is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. John touched Jeanette because that is what Jeanette wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Jeanette is partly to blame for this situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. John is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Jeanette may have encouraged John's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Jeanette should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Jeanette wearing? _____

8. Jeanette's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Jeanette should do about this situation below:

Lucy

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Lucy decided to attend an on-campus Halloween party. Lucy decided to wear slacks and a cardigan that illuminated her pale white skin. Once at the party, Lucy noticed Max. Lucy had met Max at an informational meeting for students interested in joining the campus newspaper. Max approached Lucy to say hi. He then placed his hands on her backside. Lucy pushed Max away.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Lucy is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Max touched Lucy because that is what Lucy wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Lucy is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Max is completely innocent of wrongdoing?

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Lucy may have encouraged Max's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Lucy should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What is Lucy wearing? _____

8. Lucy's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Lucy should do about this situation below:

Lucy

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Lucy decided to attend an on-campus Halloween party. Lucy decided to wear a short black skirt that illuminated her pale white skin. Once at the party, Lucy noticed Max. Lucy had met Max at an informational meeting for students interested in joining the campus newspaper. Max approached Lucy to say hi. He then placed his hands on her backside. Lucy pushed Max away.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Lucy is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Max touched Lucy because that is what Lucy wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Lucy is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Max is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=disagree

5. Lucy may have encouraged Max's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Lucy should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Lucy wearing? _____

8. Lucy's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Lucy should do about this situation below:

Lucy

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Lucy decided to attend an on-campus Halloween party. Lucy decided to wear slacks and a cardigan that illuminated her dark black skin. Once at the party, Lucy noticed Max. Lucy had met Max at an informational meeting for students interested in joining the campus newspaper. Max approached Lucy to say hi. He then placed his hands on her backside. Lucy pushed Max away.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Lucy is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Max touched Lucy because that is what Lucy wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Lucy is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Max is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Lucy may have encouraged Max's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Lucy should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Lucy wearing? _____

8. Lucy's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Lucy should do about this situation below:

Lucy

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Lucy decided to attend an on-campus Halloween party. Lucy decided to wear a short black skirt that illuminated her dark black skin. Once at the party, Lucy noticed Max. Lucy had met Max at an informational meeting for students interested in joining the campus newspaper. Max approached Lucy to say hi. He then placed his hands on her backside. Lucy pushed Max away.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Lucy is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Max touched Lucy because that is what Lucy wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Lucy is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Max is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Lucy may have encouraged Max's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Lucy should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Lucy wearing? _____

8. Lucy's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Lucy should do about this situation below:

Sarah

Please read the story below and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

After Sarah finished her finals, she had plans to attend a party near downtown. Sarah decided to wear tight red leather pants that complimented her pale white skin. At the party, she saw Randy, her classmate, across the club. Sarah decided to dance, but she was startled when she felt Randy dance too closely behind her. Sarah quickly spun around and pushed Randy away, but Randy continued to touch Sarah's behind.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Sarah is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Randy touched Sarah because that is what Sarah wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Sarah is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Randy is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Sarah may have encouraged Randy's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Sarah should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Sarah wearing? _____

8. Sarah's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Sarah should do about this situation below:

Sarah

Please read the story below and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

After Sarah finished her finals, she had plans to attend a party near downtown. Sarah decided to wear a grey hoody and pants that complimented her pale white skin. At the party, she saw Randy, her classmate, across the club. Sarah decided to dance, but she was startled when she felt Randy dance too closely behind her. Sarah quickly spun around and pushed Randy away, but Randy continued to touch Sarah's behind.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Sarah is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Randy touched Sarah because that is what Sarah wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Sarah is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Randy is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Sarah may have encouraged Randy's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Sarah should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Sarah wearing? _____

8. Sarah's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Sarah should do about this situation below:

Sarah

Please read the story below and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

After Sarah finished her finals, she had plans to attend a party near downtown. Sarah decided to wear a tight red leather pants that complimented her dark black skin. At the party, she saw Randy, her classmate, across the club. Sarah decided to dance, but she was startled when she felt Randy dance too closely behind her. Sarah quickly spun around and pushed Randy away, but Randy continued to touch Sarah's behind.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Sarah is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Randy touched Sarah because that is what Sarah wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Sarah is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Randy is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Sarah may have encouraged Randy's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Sarah should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Sarah wearing? _____

8. Sarah's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Sarah should do about this situation below:

Sarah

Please read the story below and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

After Sarah finished her finals, she had plans to attend a party near downtown. Sarah decided to wear a grey hoody and pants that complimented her dark black skin. At the party, she saw Randy, her classmate, across the club. Sarah decided to dance, but she was startled when she felt Randy dance too closely behind her. Sarah quickly spun around and pushed Randy away, but Randy continued to touch Sarah's behind.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Sarah is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Randy touched Sarah because that is what Sarah wanted.

1= strongly agree

2= agree

3= neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

3. Sarah is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Randy is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Sarah may have encouraged Randy's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Sarah should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Sarah wearing? _____

8. Sarah's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Sarah should do about this situation below:

Appendix D

Filler Vignettes

Jamie

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Jamie awoke to a text message about an on-campus social. Once she arrived, she danced to their favorite songs while wearing a short, black sparkly dress that contrasted with her dark black skin. Dean, one of Jamie's new friends, angrily approached Jamie about her previous comments about their friendship. Dean accused Jamie of telling her girlfriends that she and Dean were becoming more than just friends. Dean cursed at Jamie and told her to stop telling lies about their platonic friendship.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Jamie is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

2. Dean yelled at Jamie because that is what Jamie wanted.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

3. Jamie is partly to blame for the situation.

1= strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Dean is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Jamie may have encouraged Dean's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Jamie should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2= agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Jamie wearing? _____

8. What is Jamie's race?

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Jamie should do about this situation below:

Julie

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Julie was excited about attending a Homecoming after-party. Julie decided to wear beige capris, which contrasted with her dark black skin. At the party, Julie danced to her favorite songs. Later, Julie saw Alex, one of her classmates and she went to say hello. Alex yelled at Julie, asserting that she was spreading lies about a comment he made.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Julie is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

2. Alex yelled at Julie because that is what Julie wanted.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

3. Julie is partly to blame for this situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Alex is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly agree

5. Julie may have encouraged Alex's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Julie should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly agree

7. What was Julie wearing? _____

8. What is Julie's race?

a. Caucasian

b. Hispanic

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Julie should do about this situation below:

Erica

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Erica is the co-president of the college's student council and she was invited to an event planning party. Erica wore a halter top which illuminated her pale white skin. Jim, the treasurer of the student council was also present at this party. Jim disliked the way Erica organized the last student council meeting, so he began to spread rumors about Erica among the students. At the event planning party, Jim found Erica and yelled at her about how she organized the meetings.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Erica is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

2. Jim yelled at Erica because that is what Erica wanted.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

3. Erica is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Jim is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Erica may have encouraged Jim's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Erica should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Erica wearing? _____

8. Erica's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Erica should do about this situation below:

Mary

Please read the story and **circle** your answer to the questions below.

Mary decided to attend an on campus ice cream social. Mary wore beige capris which stood in stark contrast against her pale white skin. Mary had to set up all of the ice cream booths. Fred, Mary's classmate, was assigned the role of setting up the music. Fred became irritated when Mary started to state her opinion on the music. Fred became increasingly irritated and loudly yelled at Mary.

For each question, please circle your answer.

1. Mary is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4= disagree

5= strongly disagree

2. Fred yelled at Mary because that is what Mary wanted.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

3. Mary is partly to blame for the situation.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

4. Fred is completely innocent of wrongdoing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

5. Mary may have encouraged Fred's behavior.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

6. Mary should have worn different clothing.

1=strongly agree

2=agree

3=neutral

4=disagree

5=strongly disagree

7. What was Mary wearing? _____

8. Mary's race is

a. Hispanic

b. Caucasian

c. African-American

d. Asian-American

9. Please describe what Mary should do about this situation below:

Appendix E
Demographic Survey

1. What is your age? _____

2. What is your year in school? **Circle** your answer.

Freshmen Sophomore Junior Senior

3. What is your race/ethnicity?

- a. Non-Hispanic white
- b. African-American
- c. Asian-American
- d. Hispanic
- e. Other _____

4. What is your major? _____

5. Male or Female? **Circle** your answer.

6. Have you ever been the victim of peer sexual harassment? **Circle** your answer. Yes or No

Appendix F

Feedback Letter

Thank you for participating in my study. The present study was conducted in order to determine if there were significant differences in how college students' perceive culpability in sexual harassment scenarios as a result of varying victim race (African-American women and Caucasian women) and promiscuity. Filler vignettes were used to distract from the true purpose of the study. I hypothesized that participants would rate the promiscuous African-American victim as more culpable than the non-promiscuous African-American, the promiscuous Caucasian, and the non-promiscuous Caucasian victim.

Please note that no identifying information about you will be associated with any of the findings, nor will it be possible for us to trace your responses on an individual basis.

If you are interested in obtaining the final results of this study, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding any portion of this study, please do not hesitate to let us know now or in the future. Our contact information is found at the bottom of this letter.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this study. If you would like to discuss your own experiences with sexual harassment there are free resources available. Please contact the Student Counseling and Resource Center in St. Charles, MO 63301 at 636-949-4528.

Sincerely,
Principal Investigator:
XXX

Supervisor:
Dr. Michiko Nohara-LeClair
Contact Information: 636-949-4371 (mnohara-leclair@lindenwood.edu)