

The Perils for Autistic Students within Higher Education: Addressing Ableism within Sexual Assault Prevention Courses

Presenter: Emree Jensen
Contact Info: ejensen@ggc.edu
Mentor: Dr. Rachel Donegan
School: Georgia Gwinnett College

Research Question

How does the current rhetoric used in sexual assault prevention courses impact autistic students?

Research Methods

- Analyze the rhetoric of EVERFI's Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates online (SAPU) course to determine the assumed & actual audience.
- Compare this rhetorical analysis to current autism research & explain how the difference in audience results in the exclusion of undergraduates with ASD.

Results

Autistic Students are the Actual Audience



Figure 1. Hollow outline of a person standing in a circle

Autistic students are rhetorically invisible because of vague, polarized language and a lack of community.

Allistic Students are the Assumed Audience



Figure 2. Colored-in icon of a person standing in a circle

Since the rhetoric used is not accessible to autistic students, the only students able to be included in the audience are Allistic students.

Significance of Results

Autistic invisibility within academia will leave disabled students ill-equipped when encountering sexual danger.

Autistic students, who are vulnerable to sexual violence, must be made visible by our rhetoric to prevent exclusive, inaccessible, education.