COMM 1010

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Domestic Violence Speech

November 25, 2014

Audience and Occasion Analysis:

SPECIFIC GOAL: My audience will learn awareness of different aspects of Domestic Violence. They hope they will feel moved by my story enough that they remember what I say. They will learn about a survivor's perspective and help for those that are in this situation, or become involved in an abusive relationship in the future. I will also talk about being violent and the avenues for help.

SPEAKER ETHOS: I am a survivor of extreme domestic violence. I was nearly killed 8 years ago when my husband brutally attacked me in our car while we were downtown. I suffered broken bones in the left side of my face, nose and nerve damage to my mouth. I was bitten and choked and the nerves in my neck were crushed causing severe pain every day of my life. I have six plates and 18 screws that hold the left side of my face in one place. I have not only survived, I have managed to raise my three kids through all the physical, emotional, mental and financial damage. I currently speak to Murray High students and volunteer locally at engagements around the valley. I was recently interviewed on a talk show airing November 22nd for xfinity and I am going to be organizing a symposium here in Salt Lake City. We are starting our focus at the colleges and I hope to one day be able to present a larger presentation to SLCC students as well.

PATTERN OF ORGANIZATION: My particular subject starts with a chronological pattern but also incorporates Cause - effect and some problem - solution aspects as well.

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS: I believe that my story is the attention getting criteria I need to then be able to talk about how others are affected. My story is a bit shocking, but also I have found motivating to others. Once the main chronological parts of my story are given, I will talk about causes of domestic violence, and the effects it has on everyone. I will then present solutions and options for those that need help, seek advice or may one day need assistance.

OCCASION ANALYSIS: This speech location is by far the most perfect option for the type of information presented. We aim to get to young adults (this is why I start at high school) and hope to give them information BEFORE they are in an abusive situation. The warning signs, the myths of affection after the abuse, and college students are at an impressionable age where they can grasp the concept and be aware of how devastating domestic violence can be. Domestic Violence does not discriminate. It is a problem among every race, every religion, every gender, every secual orientation, every financial status every social status. Colleges reach the most diverse amount of people at just the right age.

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. On March 31st, 2006 my life living in an abusive marriage nearly ended. This last incident where I was beaten beyond recognition in a drug and alcohol induced rage, was certainly not the last. I was married to a man who knew nothing different than to be violent when angry. What I didn’t know when it all started was that I was playing a part in what would have a life altering tragic end. Tragic as it was, I survived. I was in the ICU for a week with 6 broken bones in my face including my nose. 5 human flesh tearing bite wounds, and crushed nerves in my neck from being choked nearly unconscious black and blue from head to toe.

B. The last 8 years have been incredibly trying but also the most rewarding. Sharing my story across the country, to anyone who will listen, has helped me continue to heal at the same time as reaching out to others who need to hear what I have to say. I lived in an abusive marriage for nearly 10 years. The first hit was so surreal and I had no idea what the next decade would turn into.

C. Thesis: Had there been an emphasis on education and awareness about domestic violence, I know my life would have turned out differently, but growing up in a nonviolent home in a non violent town my whole life sheltered me from understanding exactly what was happening.

D. Preview: First and foremost it is essential that our young adults today understand the dangers of being in a controlling, manipulative and abusive relationship can have. That they get the resources to get help if they are currently in one, and that they know how to help others that they love that are faced with domestic violence. Second, the only way to raise awareness for victims is to get to the root of the issue. We need to also focus on the abusers. Its common to think these people are monsters, a disgrace, and a danger to society. For some yes this maybe be true but for others, they are also living a life they never would have chosen for themselves and some just don’t have the ability to change without help. We are here to help them understand they don’t have to be this way and that anyone who is willing can change. And thirdly, domestic violence has a long lasting effect on your children, parents and other loved ones. How do they help those they know need it but refuse it ? And how do they cope with tragic endings ?

II. BODY:

A. Getting education and awareness to our youth is one of the best ways at preventing domestic violence

Abuse is not discriminatory, it affects every religion, race, gender, secual orientation, and financial status. As quoted by Dr. Phil "Every 15 seconds a woman in America is being abused," Dr. Phil says. "One out of four women will fall victim to domestic violence at some point in their life, and this is a season-long call for action. There is silence about this. This is something that isn't talked about. It's probably one of the most under-reported things going on in America today.” Getting the information to our youth is imperative in ensuring that they understand and know exactly what they are experiencing and the warning signs that something isn’t right. For so many the awareness came too late, this problem is 100% curable. Robin McGraw, Dr. Phil McGraw’s wife has started the “When Georgia Smiles” program and the Aspire app where people can have a notification sent to emergency numbers you put in place by the push of a button. With the help of people like Robin McGraw and others who are in the public eye, and with the help of other survivors we can make a difference.There are many organizations both locally and nationally that will help victims find a way out. InUtah there is the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition and the YWCA among other places. Nationally there are literally hundreds of places to go for help. The National Coalition against Domestic Violence. The issue is becoming a very widely known problem and the public has responded very favorably

B. the only way to raise awareness for victims is to get to the root of the issue. We need to also focus on the abusers.

We have to also address those that are abusers. I don’t know any young child that when asked who or what they want to be when they grow up will tell you “an abuser”. There are many causes to why a person is raised to believe that violence is the only way. They come from abusive households, or manipulative and controlling homes. They come from poverty or hidden “perfect family” homes. They are not nurtured, or over nurtured and they struggle with how to deal with stress. If we can teach our youth about the dangers of their behavior and get them help for their uncontrollable actions, we maybe able to stop them from becoming abusers. As quoted from The Georgia Coalition against Domestic Violence “Attending FVIP classes is not a guarantee that an abuser will change, but it may make an abuser more aware of the role of power and control in the relationship. Attending anger management classes, couples counseling or substance abuse counseling is not the answer for domestic violence. “

C. Domestic violence has a long lasting effect on your children, parents and other loved ones.

My adult child, the one who witnesses most of this abuse, and suffered emotionally and mentally has a very difficult time in relationships. She is a beautiful, fun and vibrant young woman but the memories of her past and what my ex husband said to her all those years still haunts her. She was the oldest child of mine from a previous marriage. My ex husband did not really like children and he made it clear he wa not tolerant of her. She never really did anything wrong but she was frequently told that her opinions and feelings don’t matter. Many times the physical abuse happened because I stood up for her, and wouldn’t allow him to say those things. But he did anyway, and I took the beatings as a result. I wish I had realized how much damage was happening to her and my other daughter. It’s something as a mother I should have protected them from and I spend every day living with the guilt and trying to help them overcome our past. According to the ACADV website The trauma they experience can show up in emotional, behavioral, social and physical disturbances that affect their development and can continue into adulthood.” Unfortunately we are living proof this is true.

III. CONCLUSION: Domestic Violence affects so many people. It has always been known as the “secret” problem. Always done within the walls of our own homes. Most abusers will not risk arrest or public interference and most victims are ashamed and embarrassed at the life they are living. While we cannot save everyone, and I have lost friends to domestic Violence, we can become aware, educated and help others when they ask for it. It is so hard to watch others be in bad and abusive relationships but the more you tell them it is wrong, and the more you make judgemental comments, the further they will push you. You can help them with information and letting them know you're there for them and you can educate them with how bad it could get but ultimately it is up to them to reach out and take your hand. There are different levels of abuse. There are many different kinds. Please take my advice and protect yourself from being a victim, or an abuser and make a vow to make your life the best it can be, I’m 40 years old and starting over. The damage is irreversible, but I can make a difference in my childrens lives and others. I encourage you to do the same.

WORKS CITED:

<http://drphil.com/shows/page/end_the_silence/>

<http://gcadv.org/general-resources/links/family-violence-intervention-progams-fvip/>

<http://www.acadv.org/children.html>