



Domestic Violence in the Media, March 14th, 2018

The major takeaway from this event was working to hone in our critical thinking about how we relate to the media we consume. At the event we discussed three pieces of media – a news article, a popular song, and a TV show. Here are the examples we looked at and the big take-aways:

- News Article: [Husband Charged With Grisly Killing of Transgender Pageant Founder](#)
Attendees noted that the articles seemed to sympathize with the abuser, that the history of domestic violence was downplayed, and it felt like there were key pieces of information that made it seem like a one-time incident, rather than one that followed a history of power and control.
- Song: [“Jealous” by Nick Jonas](#)
It was widely agreed that the lyrics of this song are pretty disturbing in that while there is no real indication he and this woman are actually dating, he clearly feels justified in his jealousy and even admits to having a “sorry not sorry” attitude towards it.
- TV clip: [“FRIENDS” – a scene with Ross & Rachel](#)
This piece of media was a less obvious domestic violence example, however, it was used to highlight the warnings signs coming out of their relationship – he doesn’t want her to spend time with other men he doesn’t “approve” of, he guilts her into taking him to a work event, and he doesn’t respect her desire to follow her career and have a piece of her life not directly involving him.

Each of these media clips were used to help us identify unhealthy and potentially lethal actions and attitudes that we see represented in the media. The discussions based around each of these pieces helped us to unpack what we see, hear, and read as we navigate the world around us. We wanted each person to walk away with more skills to answer the following questions:

Are we able to recognize when we see images of unhealthy relationships posing as healthy relationships?

How can we use our knowledge of the complexities of intimate partner violence to help our friends, neighbors, and community understand these situations more clearly?

As you continue to have courageous conversations with your circles, here are a few more resources that may be helpful to you:

["I Studied 18 Years Worth of Domestic Violence Articles. Here's What Journalists Can Do Better."](#)
["Contribution of Media to the Normalization & Perpetuation of Domestic Violence."](#)

Our goal is not to berate the media for not fully understanding the complexities of domestic violence; our goal is to better understand it ourselves so that we can more accurately interpret what we are reading, watching, and hearing, and to better support survivors.