

TED Talks on Hazing

“The Dangers of Hazing and Bullying” – Kathleen Wiant (TEDxDayton)

- Length: ~13 minutes
- Why it is powerful: Personal story of a mother whose son died from fraternity hazing; explains how consent, shame, and silence sustain hazing cultures.
- Best for: New-member education, chapter meetings, Greek Councils
- [Watch on TED \[ted.com\]](#)

Discussion Questions

1. **Wiant talks about how “consent” is often used to justify hazing.**
Where do you see consent misunderstood or misused in fraternity/sorority culture, and why might people feel pressured to say “yes” even when something feels wrong?
2. **The talk emphasizes silence and shame as key reasons hazing continues.**
What are the real risks—social, emotional, or organizational—of speaking up within the fraternity/sorority community, and how can chapters reduce those risks for members?
3. **Wiant calls for courage from peers, not just leaders.**
What is one realistic moment where an active member (not an officer) could interrupt hazing behavior without escalating the situation?

“Hazing, Connection, and the Violence of Belonging” – Dr. Sheila Smith-McKoy (TEDxNCSU)

- Length: ~19 minutes
- Why it is powerful: Examines hazing in fraternities and sororities through the lens of belonging, power, and identity; connects personal experience with cultural analysis.
- Best for: Officer retreats, leadership development, NPHC/MGC contexts
- [Watch on YouTube \(TEDx\) \[youtube.com\]](#)

Discussion Questions

This talk frames hazing as a “violence of belonging.”

Why do you think people are willing to endure harm to belong, and how does that show up specifically during new-member periods?



1. **Smith-McKoy discusses power and hierarchy in Greek organizations.**
How does power show up in subtle (not obvious) ways during recruitment, pledging, or intake—and who benefits from that power?
2. **The speaker challenges the idea that suffering creates stronger bonds.**
What experiences in your chapter actually do build trust and loyalty—and how are those different from hazing behaviors?
3. **If hazing is rooted in unmet needs for connection, recognition, or loyalty,**
what intentional practices can fraternities/sororities replace hazing with to foster authentic belonging without violence or harm?

“Disrupting the Cycle of Hazing” – Will Clarke (TEDxSMU)

- **Length:** ~4.5 minutes
- **Why it is powerful:** Short, accessible, and action-oriented; focuses on how hazing is perpetuated and how leaders can interrupt it.
- **Best for:** Quick chapter discussions, IFC/Panhellenic meetings
- [Watch on YouTube \(TEDx\) \[youtube.com\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Discussion Questions

1. **Clarke argues that hazing is often repeated simply because “that’s how it was done.”**
What traditions in Greek Life are most protected from questioning, and why is it so hard to challenge them?
2. **The talk focuses on cycles—being hazed, then hazing others.**
What pressures exist for members to “earn the right” to haze the next group, and how could chapters break that cycle without losing identity?
3. **Disruption requires individual choice.**
If one member decided to stop participating in hazing behaviors today, what support would they need from their chapter or council to be successful?

Optional Facilitation Tip

End any of these discussions with: **“What is one thing our chapter could stop, start, or change *this semester* to align our actions with our values?”**