



“What is NPC?” Video Discussion Guide

This guide is meant to be used to facilitate a conversation after watching the “What is NPC” [Youtube video](#). Audience members can be asked to watch the video prior to the discussion, or it can be shown right before the discussion is facilitated. Below are some potential responses you may hear for some of the questions suggested for this video. This is not an exhaustive list. When appropriate, it may be helpful to challenge audience members to provide evidence or examples for the opinions or thoughts they express.

What were your initial thoughts/feelings/reactions to the video? Did anything stand out to you? Did you feel like something was missing?

This is meant to be an opportunity for audience members to share any salient reactions to the video. It will also be helpful to understand what the audience is most interested in as you continue the discussion?

Opening activity: Let’s think about the question, “What is NPC?” but let’s also think about other questions, such as “Why does NPC exist?” and “How does NPC accomplish its founding purpose?”

On a small piece of paper, I want you to take a couple of minutes to write down answers to these three questions as you understand them right now. [Pause to allow participants time to respond.]

Now, turn to the person next to you and discuss your answers, try to figure out if there is anything you missed in your answers that your partner caught and discuss why you answered the way you did. [Pause to allow participants time to discuss.]

Are there any pairs willing to share what you discussed with the large group?

Why is it important for us to know about other sororities?

- Because we all work together on campus
- Sorority women from other organizations are our classmates, coworkers, colleagues and friends
- So we can learn more from one another to improve the College Panhellenic and our own organizations

Why do you think sororities were initially formed in the 19th century?

- To give women a place to bond with each other
- To allow women to chance to support each other in a sexist society
- To give women a safe space on campuses that were heavily dominated by men

What were some of the factors or issues that made it difficult for women’s organizations to get started and succeed on campuses in the 20th century?

- Restrictive social customs
- Unequal status under the law
- Assumptions that women were inferior to men
- The Great Depression
- World War I and II
- Decreased women’s enrollment in the 1950’s

Do any of these issues persist today? What new issues do we face now?

- Title IX
- Modern forms of sexism
- Student loans/debt
- Political climate
- Backlash against the fraternity/sorority experience



How have these contemporary issues shaped YOUR experience? How have they shaped the sorority experience as a whole?

In the video, the first meeting of NPC in 1902 was described the following way: “The very air in that small, windowless room ... it seemed heavy with a sense of secrecy ... these women were deeply conscious of the sacredness of their vows to their respective orders.” What do you find interesting about that quote?

- The women had to balance the dedication to their organization with their desire for Panhellenic cooperation.

What underlying values and ideals did NPC have in its early days that we see in our College Panhellenic today?

- Focus on recruitment
- Commitment to equality or parity
- Competition can be healthy, as long as every organization plays by the same rules

Why is the importance of parity, rules/policies and fairness important in a recruitment process?

- It gives everyone an even playing field, including potential new members (PNMs) and chapters

The video talks about no-frills recruitment, which has evolved into what we now call values-based recruitment. What role do values play in recruitment? What role do values play for a PNM making a decision regarding membership?

- It is important that PNMs understand what they are joining
- PNMs understand what the sorority experience is about, not what they believe it is about

In what ways do NPC and our College Panhellenic contribute to our social, health and well-being?

- Providing opportunities to get to know and bond with other women, both inside and outside our organization
- Leadership opportunities and experiences
- Motivation and incentives to study and achieve academic success
- Campus and community partnership and networking
- Programming initiatives and education

Closing activity: Take five minutes to reflect on how your behavior and attitude as a Panhellenic woman will change as a result of this video and discussion. Please write down your reflections. You may also reflect on new information you learned today or changes you'd like to see made in our organization or Panhellenic. The idea is to take what you have learned and discussed today and apply it to your lives and organizations moving forward.

Does anyone have any questions?

You do not need to provide answers to things they are still curious about if it is not a simple answer. In these cases, encourage them to do independent research or engage in future programming opportunities.

You may also see if anyone would like to share their reflections, but this is not required.