Day 4: 10 Lies They Told Me (about Hazing)

Be skeptical of any group that attempts to abuse their position of power over you as a newcomer. Be ready to confront any rationalizations for hazing with the TRUTH.

FACT: Hazing doesn't just occur in fraternities - it happens in athletic teams, the band, honor societies and many other types of organizations that bring in new members.

FACT: Hazing doesn't cultivate relationships - it erodes trust and divides incoming members from current members.

FACT: Hazing is not just harmless pranks - at least 1 college student has died from hazing every year since 1970, and others face serious emotional and physical harm.

FACT: Hazing doesn't foster commitment - it creates a cycle of apathy among current members who feel 'they've done their time' and no longer need to contribute.

FACT: Hazing is not a timeless tradition - odds are not every member in history went through exactly what you're doing today - organizations evolve, and they should.

FACT: Hazing is not a requirement to join - in many states it's illegal, and any reputable campus-recognized organization has policies prohibiting hazing.

FACT: Hazing is not personal development - being instructed to complete embarrassing, harmful, and otherwise pointless tasks serves to only benefit and amuse the hazer.

FACT: Hazing may not be as popular as you think - most students disapprove of hazing, but are afraid to speak up because they believe others are in support of it.

FACT: Hazing doesn't always involve alcohol - mass consumption of other liquids, verbal harassment, psychological manipulation, and physical violence is hazing, too.

FACT: Hazing is not optional - you can't make an honest choice about participating when you're being manipulated and you fear retaliation and losing your membership.

