Suggested questions/talking points for guided discussions following presentations by Dr. Jackson Katz
(no specific order)

- Jackson Katz said that some men can be really defensive in discussions about gender issues, and that this defensiveness can shut down critical dialogue between the sexes. Do you agree or disagree with him? Do you think he was fair in the challenges he issued to young men, or did he put too much emphasis on their responsibilities and not enough on women's?

- Katz argued that mainstream commentary about the effects of media tends to be superficial, and often revolves around a wrongheaded debate about whether students know the difference between fiction (like video games, Hollywood films, pornography, music lyrics) and reality. He maintains that media play a powerful role in shaping social norms about masculinities and femininities, and that some of those norms contribute to violence and sexism. Do you agree with his thesis, and if not, what do you see as its flaws?

- Many people think the word "gender" refers to women, in the same way they think "race" refers to people of color, "sexual orientation" refers to LGBTQ, etc. What is Katz's explanation for why this linguistic practice is prevalent?

- Katz showed a clip about how some ideas about manhood cut across class, racial and ethnic differences, and that there is a lot of overlap and borrowing going on cross-culturally. Can you give some examples – and this necessarily includes some broad generalizations -- of how men of varying backgrounds define manhood in ways both similar and different?

- Katz argues that men's leadership has been lacking in the area of sexual assault and relationship abuse prevention. What do you think that leadership might look like? Do you think men's leadership in these areas can make a difference in reducing rates of abuse? If not, why not?

- Katz introduced and discussed the idea of the "bystander approach" to prevent sexual assault and other forms of abuse and harassment. What role do you think bystanders can play in interrupting and preventing abuse?

- Social media and other new media technologies have fundamentally transformed the way people interact. This has both positive and negative implications in terms of bullying, harassment and violence. What are some ways social media can perpetuate abuses, and what are some ways they can contribute to prevention?

- Cultural ideas about femininity have changed enormously over the past few decades. Young women today are doing things that in some instances their mothers and grandmothers could only dream about. At the same time, have cultural ideas about masculinity changed? How? Can you give some examples of the kinds of things we associate with masculinity today that have changed from previous generations?

- Katz and his colleagues have worked extensively with college and professional athletes on the topic of gender violence prevention for over twenty years. What role do you think male and female student-athletes have – or should have – in contributing to social change? On gender issues? On issues of race and racism? On issues of sexual orientation?