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## The Power of the Student in University Crisis Management Policy Development

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Drew Reid

Senior Thesis Abstract

### The Power of the Student in University Crisis Management Policy Development

There are many forms of policy that University administrators create; a main portion of which address crises such as sexual assault violations, school shootings and suicide. The federal government has a role in the development of policy, which Title IX and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) demonstrate. Crisis Management Teams (CMT's), comprised of teachers, administrators, and other university faculty are committees who, on behalf of the university, implement the policies written by the government. Where the issue occurs is the lack of student involvement on these committees. Why are the people who the policy is written for withheld from the decision making process? Why is there not a stronger student involvement on these committees? By adding a student voice onto CMT's, there will be a better connection between the committee with the students, which will allow for more efficient and inclusive policies to be written and administered. In order to evaluate how universities handle crises both in the moment and in the aftermath in culmination with how student input could have helped prevent the situation, this study focuses on the cases of Virginia Tech and Stanford University in dealing with crises.