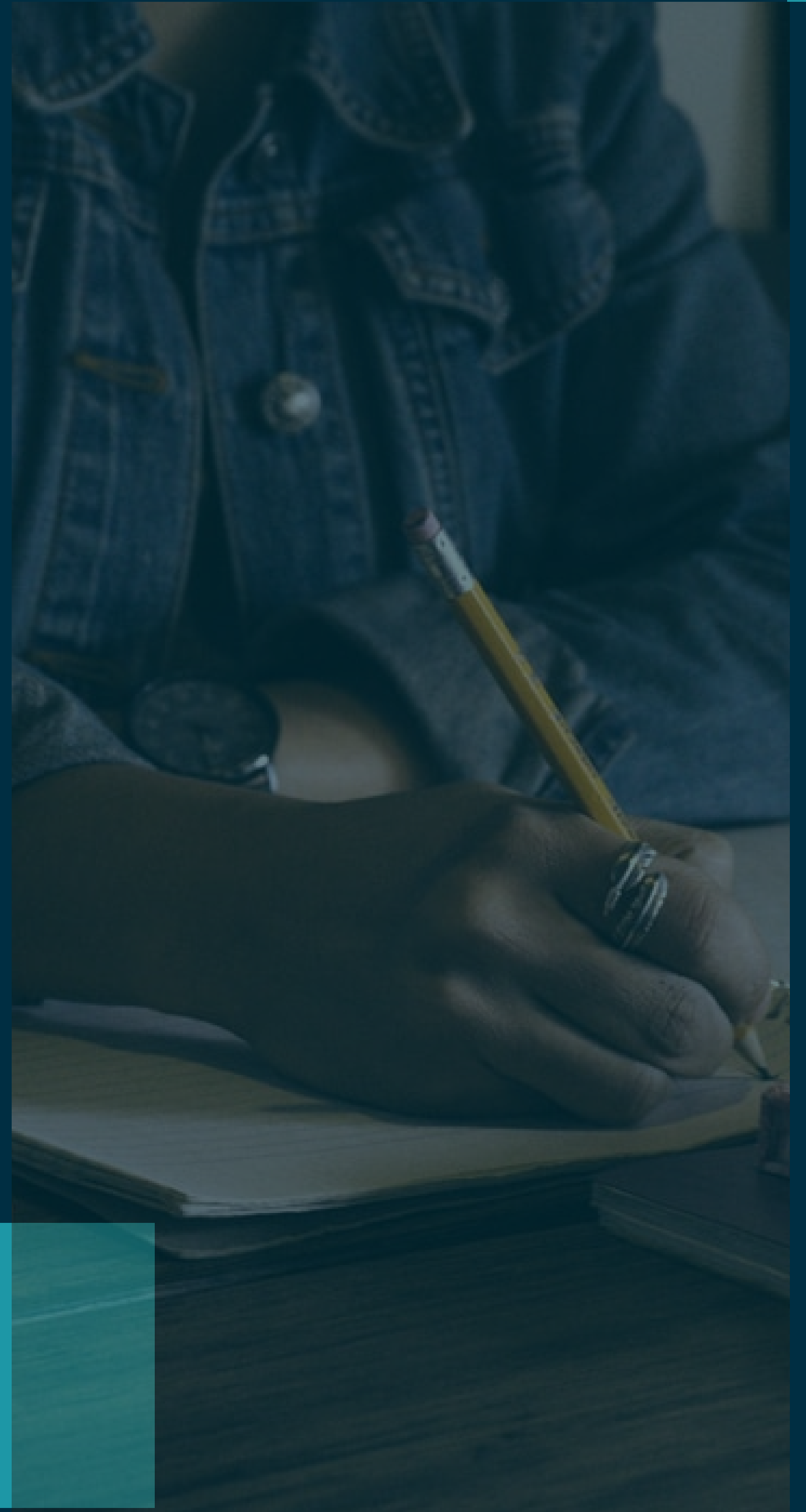


# Important Academic and Public Awareness Exemptions

Due to the importance of academic expression and open discussion, disclosures of harassment, discrimination, stalking, domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, or other sexual misconduct that may occur during the course of academic courses and in the context of academic assignments and classroom discussion, or during public awareness events (such as "Take Back the Night") are NOT required to be shared with the appropriate authorities.

However, if an employee thinks that a writing assignment or discussion may elicit a personal account of this nature then, prior to the assignment, the employee should make clear to students (as in a syllabus statement or in an announcement) that such a disclosure in a classroom assignment, without more, would not trigger reporting obligations and therefore would not trigger an investigation or response from the institution. It is equally critical to make sure that students are not making disclosures with the expectation that the disclosure will trigger action and then not having that expectation met.



If a student does submit such an account or make a disclosure in class, it would still be appropriate (and encouraged) for the employee to provide that student with information such as the link to the [resolve.vsc.edu](https://resolve.vsc.edu) website or a Resolve resource card so that the student can be fully informed as to their options and what the institution can provide for support.