

Defining | US

PODCAST LEARNING COMPANION

Our podcast companions expand learning beyond the walls of schools and organizations by bringing crucial conversations to the leaders, educators and organizations that matter. Use this guide to promote critical reflection, deeper discussion and meaningful connections among adults and youth around the topics that are Defining US.

VOICES OF CHANGE

A Podcast with Darion Allen

INSIDE EPISODE 5:

"Your Story, Your Power"

Join the conversation as Darion Allen and Chelsea Hylton (LA Times Staff Writer) discuss the struggles in representing people of color in the education and work environment. Chelsea recounts her experiences as co-editor of minority publications at UW-Madison and USC and shares useful advice for young scholars getting ready to pave their own way.

[DOWNLOAD THE TRANSCRIPT](#)



MEET CHELSEA HYLTON

Chelsea Hylton is currently a reporter on the De Los team at the Los Angeles Times. She previously reported local breaking news at NBCLA and Telemundo52. The Inglewood native is the daughter of immigrants from Mexico and Jamaica. Hylton has bachelor's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's in journalism from the University of Southern California. During her time in undergrad, she was a Posse Scholar and co-editor in chief of The Black Voice, UW's Black student-run publication. At USC, she served as a co-editor for Dímelo, the university's only Latinx-based and bilingual publication. She is passionate about social justice issues and the power that storytelling has on Black and Brown communities.



POWERFUL MOMENTS

- 06:02 Standing up to Oppressive Structures
- 11:58 Embracing Self-Worth as a Student
- 12:34 Bringing Dia De Los Muertos to LA Times
- 16:23 How Education Serves as Liberation
- 20:19 Upholding Ethical Practices as a Journalist
- 21:26 Realizing the Power You Hold
- 24:55 Staying True to Your Identity
- 28:31 Everyone's Role in Revolution
- 33:24 Message to Young Scholar

CRITICAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

AS YOU LISTEN:

1. In what ways have you, or do you hope to, lead change in the spaces you operate in? What change do you hope to lead?
2. What impact might the media you consume have on your view of different groups of people?
3. What actions do you take to challenge the stereotypes and false narratives that may exist in society?

EXPERIENCES TO PROMOTE CRITICAL SELF-REFLECTION

Reflect on Important Moments in the Conversation

Relisten to the powerful moment that highlights how education has served as liberation for Chelsea through her experiences attaining her Bachelors and Master's degrees. Respond to the following prompts.

- In what ways has education been a liberating experience for me?
- How do you think education can serve as a liberating, or freeing, agent of change?
- Reflect on any other spaces or institutions that have worked to expand your mindset? What are they?
- How will you continue the conversation in your school/community/organizations?

BUILDING DEEPER CONNECTIONS

EXPERIENCES TO PROMOTE BUILDING DEEPER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS AND THE LEARNING

PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

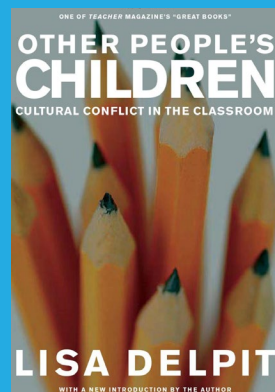
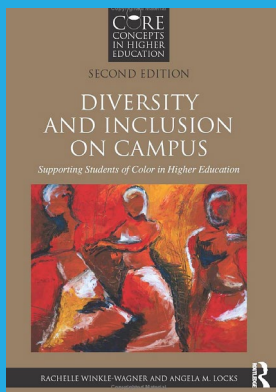
In this podcast, Chelsea declares that her personal mission as a Latinx/Black journalist is to remind those with underrepresented voices that their voices are powerful. Take a moment to consider why having a personal mission statement may be crucial for a journalist. Now, construct your own personal mission statement that highlights the WHY behind the work YOU do. Grab a partner, share your personal mission statement with them, taking note of any underlying themes (i.e., family, safety, money, etc.)

EXPERIENCES TO PROMOTE TAKING ACTION

THE STORIES WE TELL

In the podcast, Chelsea Hylton shares the story of how she brought a display representing Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) into the LA Times newsroom. The conversation also stresses the importance of exposure, highlighting the impact of the stories we see and do not see. Reflect on the media you have consumed recently. List out the identities that were present in each and take note of what identities show up often and which may not show up at all. Share with a partner and talk about the ways in which you could improve your exposure to different narratives through the media you consume.

INDEPENDENT READING AND BOOK CLUB RECOMMENDATIONS



RELEVANT RESOURCES:

- [The Posse Foundation](#)
- [Chelsea Hylton – LA Times](#)
- [De Los – LA Times](#)
- [The Black Voice – UW Madison](#)
- [Dimelo – USC](#)

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