



# TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER  
tolerance.org

## Text Graffiti Snippets

*From “Own Your Voice,” a Teaching Tolerance interview with Maria Hinojosa*



“... [T]here are people who might be incredibly different from you—and maybe not even in the same field—who ultimately encourage you. That’s how my story basically happened.”

“That was a big encouragement, me telling myself, ‘There’s nobody who understands this community the way you do, you’ve got to stay there, you’ve got to raise your hand!’”

“Look at your student body. Look at them for the stories that need to be told.”

“... [W]e want anyone who’s living in our county—whether or not they have citizenship, I don’t really care—we want them feeling empowered in a democracy.”

“Own your voice; own you agency; own your power.”

“... [W]hen anybody is speaking to me as a journalist, I really approach it from a place of humility, respect and gratitude.”

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“If you want your students to really open up to you, you have to really open up to them. That means showing your own vulnerabilities. That means if you’re going to ask them to put something on the table about ... [their] experience, about what happened last week, then you have to be able—as a teacher—to tell them what happened to you.”

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“It’s not black and white, actually; there’s a lot of gray there. It’s often times in the gray when we find the similarities that we all share. It’s about great storytelling at a moment in history that our country is just changing in amazing ways.”

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“There was something in the way she approached me, her kind of gentleness that made me believe I was equal to everyone else when, in fact, I was a minority in that classroom. I was the only one in that classroom that was coming from a Spanish-speaking household. So I did feel like the other and an outsider.”

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