

## Andrea Lunsford Videos

### Write, Being Written

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[TITLE] Write, Being Written

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["Jelani Lynch, Student" onscreen] LYNCH: I was dealing drugs in high school. Eleventh grade year. I was skipping school, coming to school sometimes here and there. One day I had a whole bunch of drugs and I actually was caught up. After school I was caught up. I think I was under investigation or something like that, but I was really screwing up. I really wasn't focused, I really wasn't goal-oriented. I didn't believe in myself at all. And I was actually expelled, and I was actually locked up.

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["Andrea A. Lunsford, Stanford University" onscreen] LUNSFORD: I got my first job teaching because my all white, male professors discouraged me from pursuing a Ph.D. and told me I should go home and join the garden club or something like that.

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[Lynch onscreen] Lynch: Black men are viewed as, there's something called, they call themselves gangsters, thugs, in the media. You've got people, you've got rappers with their gold chains, you've got them with their cars. Going to school is not the message. I mean, it throws you off. When you're a teenager, you're going to want that because it's like, oh, that's exciting, I want that. But at the end of the day, that's not going to help you get that A. It's really not. It's not going to help you get to college. It's not going to help your progress in the future.

01:10

[Lunsford onscreen] Lunsford: I got in the mail one day a free book from Oxford University Press, called "Classical Rhetoric For the Modern Student" by Edward P.J. Corbin. And I thought -- then I got mad at all those old white guys who said I couldn't do a Ph.D, and I decided I was going to pursue a Ph.D. I was going to go wherever Professor Corbin was, and I did. And he was at Ohio State, and I applied and got in and went, and then started really studying writing and rhetoric.

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[Lynch onscreen] Lynch: You know, I see people in the streets that aren't doing anything with their lives, and then I see people that are doing something with their lives. And I see the difference, the struggles that they're going through and the things that they're going through. So I'm just like, man, I know which part of life I really want to be in. Writing every day is just helping me to just set out goals and just planning, planning on paper. I mean, I'm still at risk of being a felon, and I feel like writing, it helps me to just express myself. It helps me to get my feelings on paper, get my thoughts on paper, just to get focused and actually know what I want to do.

02:11

[Lunsford onscreen] Lunsford: I begin almost every class I teach by putting "Write" on one side of the blackboard or whiteboard and "Being Written" -- Writing and Being Written -- on opposite sides, and I say, "What is it that you want in your life? Do you want to write yourself into existence? Do you want to write who you are into the world, or do you want to be written by other people, by institutions, by education?"

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[Lynch onscreen] Lunsford: And so I say, we're in this class

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[Lunsford onscreen] Lunsford: to try to move you from wherever you are with your writing more to this side of the blackboard, where you're the one writing and you're the one in the charge. You're the one making meaning. You're the one shaping your life.