

MY BLACK WOMAN STORY

OPRAH WINFREY

Kara Brathwaite

Borough Of Community College,
(BMCC)

AFN 128

Professor. Remi Alapo



INTRODUCTION

Oprah Gail Winfrey also better known as Oprah born on January 29th, 1954 in Kosciusko, Mississippi. Her mother's name is Vernita Lee and Vernon Winfrey. Most of Oprah's youth was spent living in poverty, she constantly moved around the country to live to her relatives before she was even a teenager.



Oprah was taught by her grandparents the ability to speak publicly and how to display great intelligence. Oprah attended Tennessee State University after winning a full scholarship where she studied communications. She began working at the local radio station.



Then she went on to a local television station where she became not only the first youngest news anchor but the first Black female news anchor in 1976.



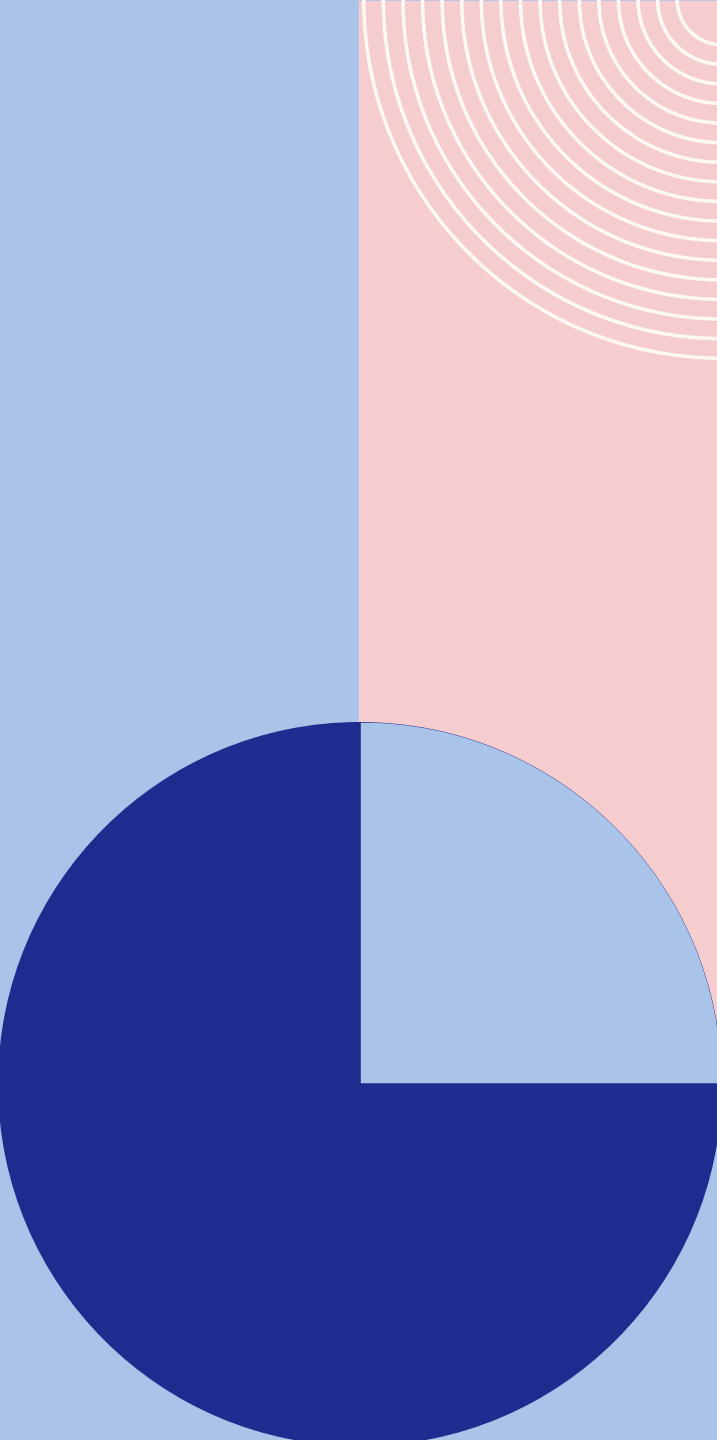
She later relocated to Chicago, Illinois where she started hosting duties on ⁵ AM Chicago was at number 1 ratings taking over shows like Phil Donahue. On Sept 8th, 1986, Oprah signed a syndication deal where the first country wide, hour-long popular Oprah Winfrey Show debuted. That same time Harpo productions was founded, and Oprah was President. As a talk show host Winfrey was credited at being more receptive to her audience than other talk show personalities of daytime talk shows. Oprah had a special way of connecting with her audience and guest speakers on the show by revealing stories about her past.



IN 1986, OPRAH DISCLOSED ON HER SHOW THAT SHE HAD BEEN MOLESTED BY MALE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF HER MOTHER IN HER YOUTH AND SPOKE ON HER WEIGHT CHALLENGES AND RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS SHE HAD FACED. THIS TYPE OF PUBLIC CONFESSION SHE DISPLAYED ON HER SHOW BECAME THERAPEUTIC TO THE AUDIENCE WHERE IT INCREASED PEOPLE'S DESIRE TO OPEN ABOUT THEIR EMOTIONS. OPRAH WINFREY SHOW ALSO HELPED RAISE A PUBLIC PROFILE FOR GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSSEXUAL AND TRANS GENDER PEOPLE THIS HELPED THOSE GROUP OF PEOPLE TO GAIN MAINSTREAM ACCEPTANCE.

By the 1990's her show had broadened its format by discussing different topics such as health, spirituality, literature and social matters, in addition to doing celebrity interviews for which she became most famous. In 1993 Oprah made television history once again when she interviewed Michael Jackson on her primetime interview which was the most watched interview EVER, hitting an audience of 100 million views world wide. The Oprah show was powerful enough to influence the American public in terms of books sales, religion, spirituality and even political opinions. By the 1990's her show had broadened its format by discussing different topics such as health, spirituality, literature and social matters, in addition to doing celebrity interviews for which she became most famous. In 1993 Oprah made television history once again when she interviewed Michael Jackson on her primetime interview which was the most watched interview EVER, hitting an audience of 100 million views world wide. The Oprah show was powerful enough to influence the American public in terms of books sales, religion, spirituality and even political opinions.

In the year 2000, Winfrey helped found the Oxygen television network where in January 2008, she then announced the start of her own television called OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network) and launched it in 2011. Within the same year 2011 after 25 years on the television air Oprah announced on May 25th, 2011, the last episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show, though the decrease in ratings, the show continued to remain the number talk show since it first aired in 1986. In the year 2000, Winfrey helped found the Oxygen television network where in January 2008, she then announced the start of her own television called OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network) and launched it in 2011. Within the same year 2011 after 25 years on the television air Oprah announced on May 25th, 2011, the last episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show, though the decrease in ratings, the show continued to remain the number talk show since it first aired in 1986.



Oprah spent many years of her career in front of the camera but not all of it hosting her talk show, she starred in *The Color Purple* which was her ⁹ first ever acting role back in 1985, which the role she played as Sofia garnered her an academy award nomination for best supporting actress. Then in 1998 she produced and starred in the film adaptation of the novel *Beloved*. She continued to produce films and even lend her voice to several children's features, she also found great success in the magazine industry with her own "O" magazine which she debuted in the year 2000. Oprah later proved her influence on other known television personalities such as Dr. Phil, Dr. Oz, her best friend Gayle King and others. Oprah can count herself as the world's first Black female billionaire as well as the United States richest self-made woman. Oprah Winfrey is the most influential African American of her generation and the most influential American woman in history. She donates more of her money to charity than anyone else in show business as an active philanthropist. Oprah built an empire from nothing; she has indelibly influenced and forever will be remembered for her contributions to popular culture.

THANK YOU

