

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Michael Spikes

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – Civics Education Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2019-068

Michael Spikes, teacher, broadcaster and leading advocate on news literacy, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Civics Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Sep 10, 2019 Location: Evanston, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:52 / 1.87 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 5, 2020.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Interview being
processed

Abstract

Michael Spikes, *Education is Key – Civics*, ECE-A-L-2019-068

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Michael Spikes was born in Cleveland, Ohio in October 1982. He graduated from the Maple Heights, Ohio High School in 2001. In high school, Michael was very active in the school's bands, and an interest in computer technology allowed him to also produce music for videos. Another high school interest was radio. Michael earned a BA degree in mass media/television and digital media from the University of the District of Columbia in 2011 and a MS degree in technological systems management: educational technology from Stony Brook University (NY) in 2014. At the time of the interview he was working on his Ph.D. in learning sciences at Northwestern University. Michael's work experiences include being a project coordinator/producer at WAMU FM (American University Radio, Washington DC) from 2005-08. He also taught mass media studies at two public schools in Washington DC from 2006-12, was a senior educational specialist at the Center for News Literacy, Stony Brook University from 20012-14, and was project manager for educator training in Illinois for the Center for News Literacy. Currently, Michael is an audio producer with the Kellogg Insight Podcast for the School of Management at Northwestern University as well as a teaching assistant. Michael has been involved with grant awards dealing with news literacy from the American Library Association and the McCormick Foundation. He also received a cognitive science fellowship from Northwestern. He has been a speaker at many conferences and has published articles in the *Journal of Educational Technology* and *Public Square Media*.

Michael looks at ways one can critically analyze the news and how students can become more news literate. Topics include understanding what news literacy is, how news is changing, how to fact check, finding bias, and being aware of advocacy journalism. Other topics covered include problems of news omission, fake news (news I don't like), the backfire effect, and using news that appeals to one's own beliefs. Spikes also talks about working in Washington D.C. with radio programs, teaching in the public schools and the news literacy training process for Illinois civics teachers. He provided examples of major journalism missteps on stories.

Subject Headings/Key Words: teaching in the Washington DC public schools; Center of News Literacy (Stony Brook University); journalism in Hong Kong; news literacy; understanding bias in media; journalistic ethics;

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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