

oppositional theory without at least a nod to what I assume are the group's expectations? More importantly, can I even begin the presentation without first shoring up my credibility? Is my mask firmly in place? Which mask?

I begin by saying that I will be talking about storytelling and that since narrative position is important to storytelling, I will begin by introducing myself (this is the moment of truth: How do they see me? I am already partially masked, madeup, dressed. Who will I present myself as? What elements will go into the construction of the mask? I stand listening and observing, at once participant and critic).

I was born in Las Vegas. ("I am as Latina as being from Las Vegas can make me.") My family later moved to Albuquerque where I graduated from Highland High School that bastion of racism. ("I have victim/outsider status.") I attended five undergraduate institutions before graduating from San Diego State University, although I was at the top of the class at all of them. ("My experience connects me with other Latinos/outsideers, and my merit makes me worthy to Insiders.") I was the first Latina accepted to Harvard Law School. ("I am credentialed.") Upon graduating from Harvard, I won a competitive fellowship to travel around the world. I spent time studying affirmative action in India and in Malaysia. ("I am Harvard-tested, travelled, with breadth in my subject.") I have been a corporate attorney in Boston and in Mexico City. ("I could have been conventional.") After the birth of my first daughter, I worked in legal services in northern New York before beginning to work as an academic administrator. ("I am wife, mother, poverty lawyer, educator.") More recently, I followed my husband when he took a job at UNM where I was hired in the office of University Counsel and later served in various central administrative positions. ("I am trailing spouse.") As you all know, I am now a professor of law.

A huge inhale and I begin. I describe some of the features of Critical Race Theory: storytelling as method<sup>18</sup>, the Outsider