

# Black Hispanic Woman: My Assignment in Huntsville, Alabama

I was born and raised in a small town in California. My parents were both immigrants from Mexico, and I grew up speaking Spanish as my first language. I went to college at the University of California, Berkeley, where I studied education. After graduating, I got a job teaching at a high school in Huntsville, Alabama.



## Black Hispanic Woman: My Assignment in Huntsville

**AL** by Christopher Warwick

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Huntsville is a very different place than where I grew up. It's a much smaller city, and it's much more racially segregated. I was the only black Hispanic woman on the staff at my school, and I often felt like I didn't belong.

The students at my school were also very different from the students I had taught in California. They were more conservative, and they were less likely to question authority. I had to learn to adapt my teaching style to meet the

needs of my students, and I had to learn to be more patient and understanding.

Despite the challenges, I eventually found my place in the Huntsville community. I got involved in the local chapter of the NAACP, and I started volunteering at a homeless shelter. I also met a wonderful group of friends who supported me and encouraged me.

My time in Huntsville was a life-changing experience. I learned a lot about myself and about the world. I learned that I am stronger than I thought I was, and that I can make a difference in the lives of others.

### **My Assignment in Huntsville**

My assignment in Huntsville was to teach English to ninth-graders. I was the only black Hispanic woman on the staff, and I was often the only person of color in the room. This made me feel self-conscious at first, but I eventually learned to use my difference to my advantage.

I started by getting to know my students. I learned about their interests and their backgrounds. I also learned about the challenges they faced, both inside and outside of school.

Once I got to know my students, I was able to tailor my teaching to their needs. I used their interests to make the lessons more engaging, and I used their backgrounds to help them connect with the material.

I also made sure to create a safe and supportive environment in my classroom. I wanted my students to feel comfortable asking questions and

sharing their ideas. I also wanted them to feel like they could come to me with any problems they were facing.

My students responded well to my approach. They were engaged in the lessons, and they were willing to share their thoughts and ideas. They also felt comfortable coming to me with their problems.

I am proud of the work that I did in Huntsville. I made a difference in the lives of my students, and I helped them to reach their full potential.

## **The Challenges**

There were many challenges to teaching in Huntsville. The most difficult challenge was the racism that I faced. I was often the target of racist comments and jokes, and I was sometimes treated differently than my white colleagues.

Another challenge was the poverty that I saw in Huntsville. Many of my students came from poor families, and they struggled to make ends meet. I often had to provide my students with food and clothing, and I sometimes had to help them find housing.

Despite the challenges, I never gave up on my students. I believed in them, and I knew that they could succeed. I am proud of the work that I did in Huntsville, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have made a difference in the lives of my students.

## **The Rewards**

There were also many rewards to teaching in Huntsville. The most rewarding experience was seeing my students succeed. I loved watching

them grow and learn, and I was proud of the accomplishments that they made.

Another rewarding experience was getting to know my students and their families. I learned so much about their culture and their traditions, and I was inspired by their strength and resilience.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have taught in Huntsville. It was a challenging experience, but it was also a rewarding one. I learned a lot about myself and about the world, and I made a difference in the lives of my students.



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