

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 9

#145 Five Powerful Women: Oprah Winfrey

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: How do you define eloquence? And Charisma?

Qt 2: There is a TV hostess in the US who can talk to anyone: who is Oprah Winfrey?

Vocabulary

- consistent (adjective): always behaving or happening in a similar way.
- syndicated (adjective): (of television or radio programmes) sold to several different broadcasting organizations.
- eradicate (verb): to get rid of something completely or destroy something bad.
- philanthropist (noun): a person who helps the poor, especially by giving them money.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Oprah Winfrey is destined to stay with America for posterity:

Winfrey, Oprah - National Women's Hall of Fame

<https://www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/oprah-winfrey/>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

As a TV hostess Oprah Winfrey has been a major force in shaping American society, in terms of "book sales, religion, spirituality, and political opinions." This can be summed up with the term "the Oprah Effect":

Oprah Winfrey Biography: Life and Career

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjDMsRDW06U>

Oprah- Barack and Michelle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hJvMSKPSv0>

PART 4: Writing Practice

This is the opening remark to the article posted in Part 2:

At the heart of everything Oprah Winfrey does, there is a consistent message – that individuals should take personal responsibility for their lives, and to improve the world.

Literally speaking, “heart” is the organ in your chest that sends the blood around your body. Metaphorically, though, it means a vital part, or central meaning, or controlling idea. A similar expression is “at the center of” or “at the root of.” Another example of its use is as follows:

The issue that lies at the heart of the present conflict is people’s greed and selfishness.

Can you write a sentence of your own using the expression “at the heart/ center/ root of”? Send your writing to: **see.u@cccu.edu.hk**. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.