

Enjoli Henderson transcript

Brittany Brown: [00:00](#) So we'll go ahead and jump right into the interview. Are you 18 years or older?

Enjoli Henderson: [00:43](#) Yes, I am.

Brittany Brown: And can you state and spell your first and last name for the record?

Enjoli Henderson: Enjoli Henderson

Brittany Brown: when were you born?

Enjoli Henderson: I was born July 28th, 1998.

Brittany Brown: And where are you from and where did you grow up from?

Enjoli Henderson: The coast of Mississippi. I grew up in, in which is on the coast.

Brittany Brown: [01:10](#) And were you also born in Pass Christian?

Enjoli Henderson: [01:12](#) Yes.

Brittany Brown: Um, what other places have you lived in?

Enjoli Henderson: Just Oxford because of school.

Brittany Brown: [01:23](#) What motivated you to come to school here?

Enjoli Henderson: [01:32](#) Um, my sister came here before I did. She was like four years older than me, so I've visited a lot when she lived here and I really liked it. It felt a lot like home when I came up here. So yeah, I really liked it more than any other place in Mississippi.

Brittany Brown: [01:50](#) Is Race an important part of your identity? Why or why not?

Enjoli Henderson: [01:54](#) Um, I would say yes because like sometimes people can tell I'm like mixed and sometimes people can't and I feel like when they can tell it, like they see me differently and like they talk to me differently. So yeah, I think it's important. Well, yeah.

Brittany Brown: [02:16](#) In what ways do people see you differently or talk to you differently?

Enjoli Henderson: [02:20](#) Um, well when they like asked me they'd be like, are you mixed with something? And I'm like, yes. And I tell them and then like they start asking me like a bunch of questions, but like if they think I'm just like black, they're just, you know, just talking to me like normally. Yeah, it's really good.

Brittany Brown: [02:36](#) And how has your experience been here at the university and living in Oxford?

Enjoli Henderson: [02:41](#) Um, it's been cool. Uh, there's a lot more stuff that they do with like Hispanic and Latinos and I think that's pretty cool. Like I never experienced like this much [inaudible] like they have like the whole Hispanic heritage month and that's pretty cool. And yeah, it's just, it is different though because there's not a lot of, you know, not even black people. So being Hispanic is like different appear but it's not like an outcast or anything.

Brittany Brown: [03:10](#) And what is your major and your classification? Notable involvement?

Enjoli Henderson: [03:15](#) Um, my major is broadcast journalism. I'm a junior and I worked for rebel radio, um, last year and I felt like I did other stuff but I can't remember right now but I definitely did other stuff.

Brittany Brown: [03:32](#) Um, and what are the most important aspects of your life right now?

Enjoli Henderson: [03:37](#) Definitely school because I'm a junior so it was getting pretty real and getting internships and I just got a dog so my dog is pretty important.

Brittany Brown: [03:48](#) Um, and so the US Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity as two different concepts. What is your ethnicity?

Enjoli Henderson: [03:57](#) See, that's a good question because I ask like as my sister that all the time, like what's the difference between race and ethnicity and the way I was told, I believe my ethnicity is Hispanic and my race is black and Mexican.

- Brittany Brown: [04:17](#) Um, and what, um, what are your parents' nationality? Do you identify with your parents' nationality?
- Enjoli Henderson: [04:23](#) My mom. Well, I recently found out my mom is Spanish and Mexican and my dad is African American and I identify as both. When people ask, I'm like I'm half black and half Mexican.
- Brittany Brown: [04:37](#) How do you identify racially and why did you identify this way?
- Enjoli Henderson: [04:42](#) Racially? Um, I do identify as Hispanic because like, you know, when they asked you online like are you Hispanic or black? They don't really have the option to choose like both. So I just do Hispanic and I do that because I think like, I dunno, like if you are Hispanic, that's just what you are, you know, and I am in like there's like a lot of like black and Hispanic mixed people and they just identify as Hispanic. So yeah, that's why.
- Brittany Brown: [05:11](#) And do you prefer the term Hispanic or Latino? What do you use when you're describing yourself?
- Enjoli Henderson: [05:16](#) Oh, I use Hispanic because that's just like what my grandma says and my mom says. But they do use Latino sometime but I just say Hispanic.
- Brittany Brown: [05:28](#) Okay. And studies show that a Latino population is growing in the United States. How do you think this will affect the way race or race relations is viewed in this country?
- Enjoli Henderson: [05:40](#) Hopefully I hope it affects it in a positive way. Like people become more like open to like learning new traditions from Hispanic people because as you said like it's, they're becoming more popular in America and I just hope it doesn't go downhill. It goes like appealing. Like we just learn more. Like I think people should learn Spanish like that. She'd be like a second language to everybody because it's just like, you know, the way of life and people want a better life and they come here for that, so we should treat them better.
- Brittany Brown: [06:17](#) How do you maintain your Latino culture while being a student here?

Enjoli Henderson: [06:21](#) Oh, I cook Mexican food for my friends all the time. Um, we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Um, yeah, that's really it. I try to watch like Mexicans shows on Netflix or Spanish shows. I called my grandma at the time just to talk to her, but yeah, mostly food.

Brittany Brown: [06:41](#) And um, what are some challenges you face with the university but because of your Latina identity?

Enjoli Henderson: [06:48](#) Um, well some people are still racist out there, but that's really, I haven't really come into contact with many, but it happens in like, I'll hear some people conversations about Mexicans and they won't know I'm Mexican so I just sit quietly and don't tell him that I'm Mexican, but that's the most that's ever happened.

Brittany Brown: [07:11](#) And has anybody ever inquired about your race or ethnicity and how do you respond to these types of questions?

Enjoli Henderson: [07:19](#) Inquire, like asked me. Um, yeah, they'll ask me and like, they'll assume I'm like Dominican or something because I don't look that Mexican, but I'll tell them and be like, yeah, I'm Mexican. And then they'll ask me, do you speak Spanish? I'm like, no. And then they'll be like, oh, you're not really Mexican. And I'm like, well, I think I'm Mexican, you know, I'm pretty Mexican. So yeah, just tell them, you know, a little bit about me and my family and how they got here.

Brittany Brown: [07:48](#) Is that a, um, a question that you're frequently asked?

Enjoli Henderson: [07:52](#) Yes, very frequently.

Brittany Brown: [07:55](#) About how often?

Enjoli Henderson: [07:56](#) I'm almost every person after I tell them I'm Mexican, they're like, oh, so you speak Spanish? And I'm just like, no I don't.

Brittany Brown: [08:03](#) And what is the, what is the story of your family and how your family ended up on the coast?

Enjoli Henderson: [08:09](#) Well, my, on my grandma's side, they, I know they lived in like Oklahoma for a while. So like she's like generations down from when they came from Spain. But she still has family over there that she goes and visits and then my

grandpa, his parents came from Mexico. They went from Mexico to California and I guess my grandma moved to California also, like when she was young and they met there and then my grandpa, his job got moved to the coast and so my mom went to the coast and met my dad.

Brittany Brown: [08:47](#) Okay. Um, have you ever experienced any assumptions about your character because of your race?

Enjoli Henderson: [08:54](#) Yes. People say I'm crazy. They'll be like, oh, so you're crazy. You have an attitude and I'm just like, no. I mean like, you know, Mexicans or Hispanic people, they do have like attitudes but not everyone's like that.

Brittany Brown: And the next question was, do you speak Spanish? You already said that you don't. Why do you not speak Spanish?

Enjoli Henderson: [09:17](#) My grandma and Grandpa, they had my mom and one of her sisters and they were really young when they had her in. It wasn't a very good like house to raise kids in. So they would talk Spanish and they didn't teach them Spanish because they talk Spanish to each other. So they wouldn't know what they're talking about. So my mom never learned it and so when I was born, um, I didn't learn it either. Yeah. Because my mom didn't know.

Brittany Brown: [09:45](#) How important is the ability to speak Spanish to the Latino culture?

Enjoli Henderson: [09:54](#) To some people is very important. Like you're not Mexican because you don't speak Spanish, but um, yeah. And there's different types of Spanish. Like my grandma, she tells me her experiences with Spanish and like how, you know she's had like trouble and like she's just gone through like things because of speaking Spanish. So it think it's really important.

Brittany Brown: [10:19](#) Yeah, that's important to you. But how does it make you feel that you don't know how to speak Spanish?

Enjoli Henderson: [10:27](#) It makes me feel like I need to learn. Like I plan on learning. It's just like such a hard language to learn. But I do want to learn so I'll be able to say like, yes, I can speak Spanish.

- Brittany Brown: [10:39](#) And how does the university and the community cater to the Latino community here?
- Enjoli Henderson: [10:45](#) I think I do good. They put on a lot of, like things for Hispanics, like they have like, like my Spanish teacher would tell me about like movies, daily show and like groups, they would have just like talking. I never went but I would like to go. But yeah, they do good. A good job. Um, a lot of the Spanish teachers tried to really get us to go to the things and stuff.
- Brittany Brown: [11:13](#) How do you feel the university and the community kind of like forgets or omits the Latino community? Um,
- Enjoli Henderson: [11:23](#) I don't know. There's, it's like really southern appearance, you know, so it's like I always think of food with like nationalities or you know, like barbecue was like a big thing here and I just think like they can't have like more, you know, like Mexican or Hispanic stuff, you know, like more authentic food or like just stuff to like include, you know, that race.
- Brittany Brown: [11:50](#) And um, how do you view in the US in the south and in Oxford?
- Enjoli Henderson: [12:14](#) Living in the south races like very important like you know, the whites are like up there like, and then the black people, it's just like, I don't know how to explain it but it's just like white people like to me is like you have to like look not like look out necessarily, but like just be cautious of the white people and then the black people, we just, I feel like we're still like cautious about, you know, where we go and like if there's like a lot of white people like you know, you don't see a lot of black people in that area and yeah, just like that. Like, yeah. Okay.
- Brittany Brown: [12:54](#) And how do you perceive the Latino population affecting the idea of race in the US?
- Enjoli Henderson: I think the Latino population is very big in the US. So it's like, I feel like it's like whites against blacks and Latinos or minorities against whites, but also black people are like a way, like do certain things that Mexicans or Hispanics don't. So it's like three different things like races against each other and I feel like black people and Hispanics

should just come together instead of like being like rude to each other. They. Yeah, that's it.

Brittany Brown: [13:45](#)

So you can't really say that you ever faced any challenges or problems because of your identity as a Latino student here?

Enjoli Henderson: [13:58](#)

No, I don't think so.

Brittany Brown: [14:00](#)

And um, so earlier when we were talking about like what do you consider your race and your ethnicity to be? So, um, you said you always change Hispanic, right? Um, do you consider yourself to be black or African American as well or is it just one or the other for you?

Enjoli Henderson: [14:19](#)

Um, I consider myself to be black as well. But like in certain situations like I will, like for jobs I'll say I'm Hispanic because I feel like it's important for them to know that I'm not just black, I am also Hispanic. And then like when they see me, I feel like they'll know like, okay, he's Hispanic, but she might be like black as well.

Brittany Brown: [14:37](#)

Why do you feel it's important for them to know that?

Enjoli Henderson: [14:40](#)

Um, obviously like the race issue in the south, people will do, like discriminate a lot against like black people. So sometimes I try to use like being as an advantage or cause I know a lot of people try to get like multiracial, multicultural in their businesses. So I do say, you know, I'm Hispanic to get some variety.

Brittany Brown: [15:05](#)

Um, do you feel like you identify stronger with one group or the other or is it the same for you?

Enjoli Henderson: [15:14](#)

Um, sometimes I do feel like I identify more as black than Hispanic only because like a lot of people can't tell on Hispanic. But then some people say they can. And my mom, she'll like catch me. Like when I'd be like, when I tell somebody, oh, I'm black, she'd be like, you're Mexican because I had you, you're Mexican. I'm like, okay, yeah, I'm mixed. But I do most of the time feel like identify more as black, especially in the south because it's like a big, like blacks, black people, like all my friends are black so it's like I am black, like I'm just light skinned to them. They don't really see me as Hispanic and like it's just hard to like, there's not a lot of like Hispanic things to do out here in and

Hispanic people. So I do consider myself like black most of the time.