

### Focused Note-Taking Phase 1: Taking Notes

- View a Finding Your Roots episode
- List the 3 celebrities across the top of the note-catcher below
- Make notes as you watch according to the prompts on the far left column of the note-catcher; you can recreate this organizer on your own paper or in a digital Word document if you don't have a way to print a hard copy.



Criminal Kind	Laura Linney	Lisa Ling	Soledad O' Brien
What are you learning about each celebrity's upbringing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actor</li> <li>• Theater brat</li> <li>• Divorced parents</li> <li>• Father famous playwright</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadcast journalist</li> <li>• Chinese American</li> <li>• Ashamed of her heritage as a child</li> <li>• Teased mercilessly when young</li> <li>• Divorced parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journalist, former CNN Anchor</li> <li>• Afro-Cuban and Australian descent</li> <li>• Dealt with racism</li> <li>• Grew up on Long Island</li> </ul>
What are you learning about each celebrity's ancestors?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her grandfather, William Linney, was transported from England after he was exiled for receiving and selling stolen goods.</li> <li>• He was banned for 14 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mother immigrated from China</li> <li>• Her mother had an unhappy childhood; her father ran a brothel and had 3 wives and a total of 19 children. He was not an affectionate or attentive father.</li> <li>• Her grandmother had a difficult journey that caused her great physical hardship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancestors were convicts</li> <li>• Some of them had to engage in petty theft to get by</li> </ul>
Note the emotional reactions of the celebrity as they learn new things about their family history.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surprised</li> <li>• Amused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sadness, empathy</li> <li>• Pride at the strength of her mother</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shame</li> <li>• Amusement</li> <li>• Sadness</li> </ul>

### Focused Note-Taking Phase 2: Processing Notes

Think about the notes. Revise notes—by underlining, highlighting, circling, chunking, questioning, adding, deleting—to identify, select, sort, organize, and classify main ideas and details. Evaluate the relative importance of information and ideas in the notes.

- Find some of the most significant things that the celebrities learned about their ancestors

- Look for similarities and differences in the celebrities' upbringings and family histories

### **Focused Note-Taking Phase 3: Connecting Thinking**

Think beyond the notes. Analyze the notes using inquiry to make connections and deepen content knowledge by asking questions and adding your own thinking to create greater understanding, identify gaps or points of confusion, and connect your new learning to what you already know.

- What do you think was most surprising or disturbing or exciting piece of information learned in this episode? What makes you say that?
- How would you describe some of the common ways that the celebrities responded to information about their ancestors?

### **Focused Note-Taking Phase 4: Summarizing and Reflecting on Learning**

Think about the notes as a whole. Pull together the most important aspects of your notes and your thinking about them to craft a summary that captures the meaning and importance of the content and reflects on how the learning helps you meet the notetaking objective.

- Summarize the episode in a few paragraphs
- Why do you think that they each had such a profound reaction to their family trees and family books?

### **Focused Note-Taking Phase 5: Applying Learning**

- How much do you know about your own family history? Ask questions about your ancestors. Interview family members to find out what you can about family members from previous generations. What kinds of emotions are evoked when you think/learn about your ancestors?