


Building Better Futures With Power Literacy

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Tell us in the chat:
how do YOU define
"power"?

Agenda

- Power literacy & information literacy
- Case study: UCLA workshop

What is POWER?

- Control or authority over others
- Capacity to direct or influence the behavior of others

From the Oxford English Dictionary

... the ultimate mark of power may be its invisibility; the ultimate challenge, the exposition of its roots.

- Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*

Power Literacy

The capacit[y] to both understand and use the particular discourses and other cultural structures involved in maintaining or transforming social conditions.

- Hillary Parkhouse

Power Literacy & Civic Engagement

- Who has power in a democracy?
- Who makes the decisions that impact your life?
- How can we exercise power as citizens?

Why focus on power in Los Angeles?



Construction of LA city hall, 1927, via [LAPL](#)

Power & Politics in LA: Workshop context & structure

Part of UCLA Library's Adulting 101 workshop series

Workshop agenda:

- Define & discuss “power literacy”
- Breakout activity: Empowerment through collaborative learning, focus on environmental injustice (EI) in LA
- Explore opportunities for civic engagement

Reflections & future directions

Pros & cons of UCLA Library research workshops

Future adaptations

- Curricular integration
- More guest speakers
- Asynchronous learning objects
- Local iterations beyond UCLA

Thanks!

Workshop slides, activity, and resources:

<https://guides.library.ucla.edu/Adulting101/powerlit>

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