

## robben island singers film and concert project

From life in the townships, to torture and imprisonment on an island with Nelson Mandela, to the music that fed their spirits and carries them forward in a new South Africa, The Robben Island Singers open a window into the lives of ordinary soldiers and citizens struggling to form a new government and just society in their country.

Their message: courage to stand up for what you believe in; personal sacrifice in pursuit of a better future; and the need to teach forgiveness in order to heal and transform society.

Through stories, songs, film clips and Q&A, three ex-political prisoners from South Africa's struggle to end apartheid engage audiences in their incredible journeys and the process they are using to make a documentary film. Students reciprocate through stories, music, film clips, artwork and poetry, contributing their voices to the international dialogue and the process they are using to create understanding in a global society.

[www.robbenislandsingers.com](http://www.robbenislandsingers.com)



## THE ROBBEN ISLAND SINGERS

FILM & CONCERT PROJECT  
by Jeff Spitz & Mickey Madoda Dube



**OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION AND CURRICULUM PLANNING**

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## introduction

The Robben Island Singers Project provides a powerful way to engage students in crucial issues of our time. By meeting these veterans of the struggle, by engaging in their cultural expression and by enacting their own cultural expressions, students mature in their approach to history, political science and art.

Six areas are proposed as jumping off points for a professional discussion among educators in planning curriculum and activities in concert with the Robben Island Singers Project. Disciplines to consider for this project: History (world), Language Arts, Music and Fine Arts, Ethnic Studies, Foreign Language, Economics, Biology, Mathematics. You may decide to break into different sub-groups to consider the six focus areas that follow. Some main points to consider, as well as texts, “essential questions,” and discussion focus, will guide your discussion.

The task of the group will be to engage in these proposals and deepen them, making them relevant to your curriculum project.

*Discussion guide written by Rick Ayers*